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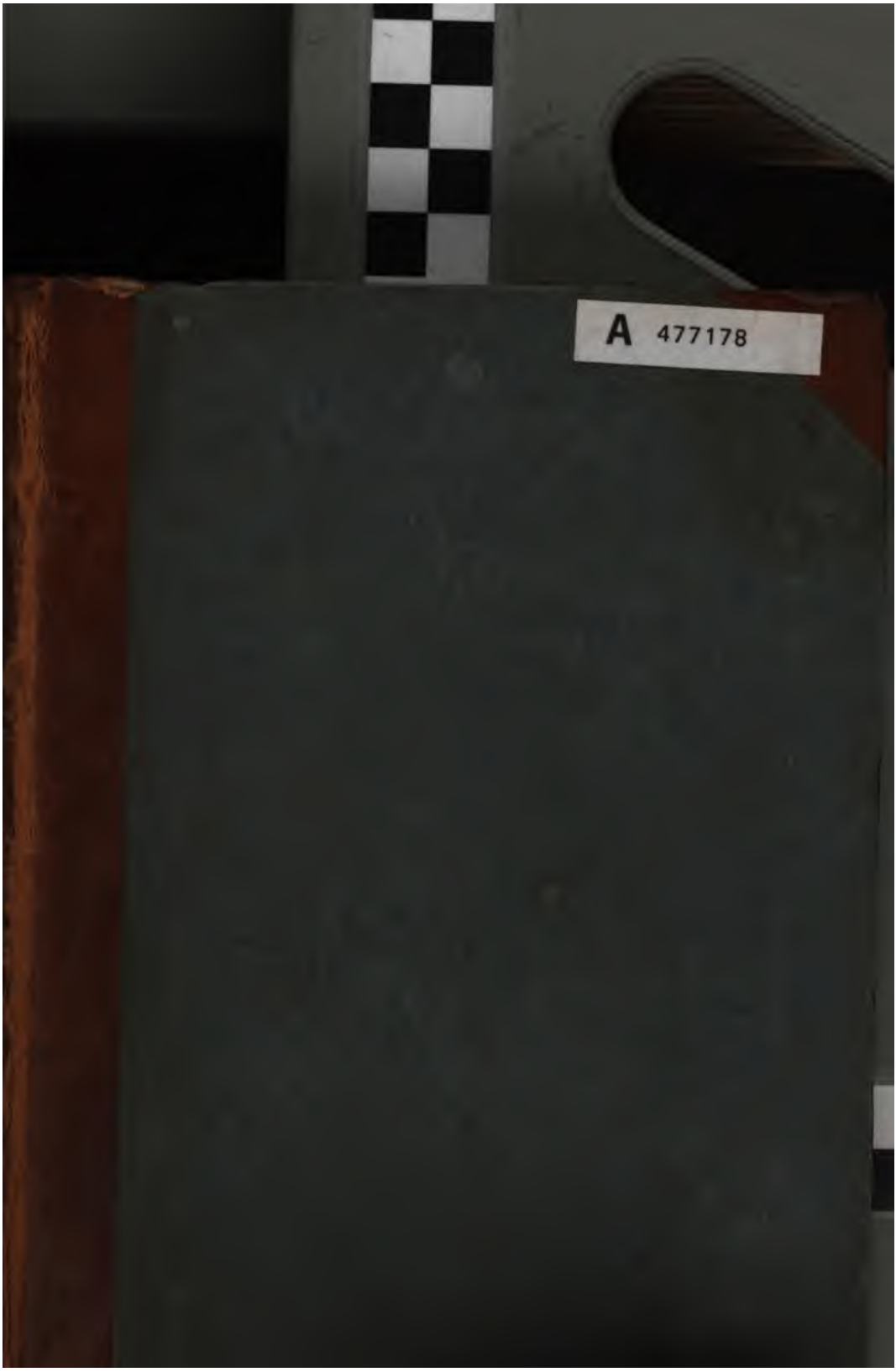
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AN

HISTORIC

AND

PICTURESQUE GUIDE

FROM CLIFTON,

THROUGH THE COUNTIES OF

MONMOUTH, GLAMORGAN, AND BRECKNOCK,

With Representations

OF

RUINS, INTERESTING ANTIQUITIES,

&c. &c.

BY

G. W. MANBY, Esq.

HOTWELLS, CLIFTON;

Author of the History of St. David's, and Fugitive Sketches of Clifton; by whom will *Speedily* be Published, the most Romantic and Picturesque Views on the River Avon.

O what can more delight the tender heart,
Or more expand the wealth of liberal minds,
Than lovely nature's various face!

BRISTOL:

PRINTED BY FENLEY AND BAYLIS,

And sold by E. Harding, Crown and Mitre, Pall-Mall; Rivingtons, St. Paul's Church-Yard, and Longman & Rees, Pater-Noster-Row, *London*; and J. Norton, and Son, Corn-Street, *Bristol*.

1802.

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INSCRIBED TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

The Marchioness Townshend.

A Public acknowledgment of the very great obligations conferred upon my Youth, and afterwards so generously extended to others most dear to me, by YOURSELF and ILLUSTRIOUS CONSORT, is the only opportunity of evincing its sensibility, which presents itself to a heart too humble to hope that it can ever, by any substantial benefit, discharge the debt of gratitude which it has thus incurred.

Already apprehensive that vanity may be imputed to me, for having presumed thus to avow the honor of your early patronage, I shall not further sanction the justice of such censure; but decline any other reference to your numerous kindnesses, than to assure you that a lively recollection of them has, with unfeigned sincerity, for ever confirmed me

Your Ladyship's

Most Devoted,

and Faithful Humble Servant,

G. W. MANBY.

CLIFTON, *Nov.* 4, 1802.

INTRODUCTION.

O history, thou parent of renown;
Thou best instructor of mankind!

TO visit a country celebrated for eventful history, had long been an object of my wishes: on the Continent, hostilities denied its accomplishment; in my own nation I, therefore, sought for a circumscribed district, which should at once present itself, to captivate the attention by the beauty and variety of its natural attractions, and interest the more deeply reflecting mind by the importance of its political vicissitudes. The SILURES (part of South Wales), to say nothing of its high-praised scenery (but which would never disappoint the most glowing anticipations of fancy), seemed to me to promise the largest rewards to the labours of my historical research, not only on account of the arduous and memorable struggle made by that brave people against the Roman and other invaders, until it became a territorial member of the English dominion, but also for its castleated ruins, once proud monuments of fame, but now, alas! mouldering tombs of scarce-remembered grandeur.

Of the customs and peculiarities of the original inhabitants, it is exceedingly difficult to obtain such information as would be likely to gratify the fastidious delicacy of a sincere lover of pure historic fact. Authors are various in their opinions, and the most learned acknowledge their insufficiency to say any thing with certainty, from the mixture of fable and improbability that has been recorded by the earliest writers.

Similar to other countries, at that remote period, they are supposed to have formed themselves into separate bodies, each governed by a chief, who considered himself as independent of other states; and no doubt, though they had frequent disagreements and battles among themselves, still, under any danger which threatened a number of the principalities together, (as the invasion of a foreign foe,) they were prudent enough to unite themselves, and to be directed by one commander, for the advantage of all the tribes; but, even then, their ferocious disposition and impatience of controul would sometimes prevent that cordiality so necessary to preservation, and lay them open to difficulties and disasters. From their mode of living in the plainest manner, and not subjecting themselves to unnecessary luxuries, either in clothing or habitation, they were strong, active, hardy, and healthy: of their courage and impetuosity the invaders bear witness; it was not their first appearance or attack which subdued them, although inured to war and having the advantage of superior qualifications; nor, when a footing had been gained by them, had they any security or rest for a long series of years. From

this cause, the Romans were under the necessity of keeping up an extensive chain of communications with every one of their settlements; and, in all probability, had the Britons been in firm unanimity, they might have preserved themselves and their country from subjugation.

Who were the princes and governors of Britain, the distant period leaves us much in the dark. There is a manuscript in the possession of Mr. Hopkins, of Coychurch, Glamorganshire, which states, that the first monarch of the island was Prydain, son of Aeth the great, at that time king of the nine Cantreds, or hundreds, of Syllwg, Siluria, or Gwent, but declined universal monarchy, for, that "*Council is not to be found in emolument;*" so that, as before stated, his son Prydain was placed in the high station: from him, by descent in a long line of sixteen successors, Bran inherited the throne, who was father to the renowned Caractacus: previous to him, we scarcely find any thing to interest us in the affairs of the kingdom; but the variety of fortune, the uprightness of his actions, the valour and perseverance of the man, add a dignity to the hero, and compel us, while we applaud his spirit, to lament his humiliation.

The detestation in which the Britons held their invaders, was continually manifested by their repeatedly harassing them whenever opportunity offered; and though the Romans, by dint of scientific warfare, generally were victorious, still the sentiment of revenge was strongly planted in the British

breast, and, undaunted by former defeats, would still engage. This people, headed by Caractacus, a revered Prince, whose reputation and courage were his greatest boast, gave a hope that their efforts would not be unsuccessful; the Romans were now guided by Ostorius (who succeeded Plautius), and came from the northern parts of the kingdom, which, by battles and bribery, he had in a great measure subdued; thus was he advanced to head an army to be opposed to Caractacus, who, by several movements, had placed his adherents under every possible advantage, and taken his station in the country of the Ordovices (North Wales), as being more suitable for defence, as the grounds were less accessible to an enemy so politic and superior in numbers; here Caractacus waited the issue of a contest which was to decide the fate of his countrymen; nothing in his power was omitted, that could animate their souls with an ardor for glory, and the memory of the achievements of their ancestors was held up to inspire them with the like fervour: the spirit and situation of the Britons were not unnoticed by the penetrating eye of Ostorius, who, to the usual forms of encouraging his legion, set forth the still greater merit of encountering greater difficulties; indeed they appeared in the circumstances before them, and might be thought insuperable. As the Roman soldiers were impatient for the attack, Ostorius had no difficulty in leading them to the battle, which was long and obstinately contested; but alas, the discipline and fury of Roman warriors, shielded by coats of mail, proved too powerful for the brave Britons, who were defeated, and the victory was the more complete by the

ultimate capture of the wife and daughters of Caractacus, and the surrender of his brothers. The unfortunate Prince, in his despair, fled, for protection and relief, to Cartismandua, the queen of the Brigantines, who, unmindful of generosity, honor, or compassion, infamously delivered him into the hands of his enemy; thus was a dignified hero, by the issue of this battle, reduced from power, freedom, and prosperity, to become a public spectacle in the triumphal procession of the conqueror to Rome.

Though in this manner degraded, he preserved his magnanimity, and without a look of despondency, or soliciting compassion from the surrounding throng, he manfully and energetically addressed himself to Claudius, seated on his throne :—

" If my moderation in prosperity had been answerable to the greatness " of my birth and estate, or the success of my late attempts, to the " resolution of my mind, I might have come to this city rather as a friend " to be entertained, than as a captive to be gazed upon; neither wouldest " thou disdain to have received me on terms of amity and peace, being a " man of royal descent, and a commander of many warlike nations; but, " what cloud soever hath darkened my present lot, yet have the Heavens " and nature given me that in birth and mind, which none can vanquish " or deprive me of. I well see, that you make other men's miseries the " subject and matter of your triumphs, and, in this my calamity, as in a " mirror, you now contemplate your own glory; yet know, that I am, " and was, a prince, furnished with strength of men and habiliments of " war; and what marvel is it if all be lost, seeing experience teacheth that " the events of war are variable, and the success of policies guided by

"uncertain fates; as it is with me, who thought that the deep waters, "like a wall, enclosing our land, and it, so situated by heavenly Provi- "dence, as in another world, might have been a sufficient privilege and "defence for us against foreign invasions: but now I perceive, that the "desire of sovereignty admits no limitation; and if you Romans must "command all, then all must obey, for mine own part, while I was able, "I made resistance, and unwilling I was to submit my neck to a servile "yoke. So far the law of nature alloweth every man that he may defend "himself, being assailed, and to withstand force by force. Had I at first "yielded, thy glory, and my ruin, had not been so renown'd. Fortune "hath now done her worst; we have nothing left us but our lives, which "if thou take from us, our miseries end; and if thou spare us, we are but "the objects of thy clemency."

Such a speech, from such a man, effected his and his family's release from their chains, and their consequeat respectful obedience to the Emperor and Empress.

Thus terminated the career of a man who had fully employed the Romans for nine years; but the Silures could not be kept peaceable, either by good or ill treatment: and this defeat served no otherwise than to stimulate them to greater acts of valour, by which they gained several victories over their oppressors; in short, the trouble and anxiety which Ostorius was continually labouring under at the determined and obstinate disposition of the Britons, was the occasion of his death. The command devolved on Didius, who kept them in more subjection, but no remarkable action is recorded of him, and had he not been assisted by others, in all likelihood, the inveteracy of the Britons would have been too powerful for him. After Didius,

Verantius became commander, who dying within a year, Suetonius Paulinus had the government; and as success encreases ardor, he determined on the gaining of the island of Mona (Anglesey), which was still rebellious; but his absence occasioned a fresh rupture that had nearly been fatal to the Romans. Trebellius Maximus was the next, and succeeded by the more gentle method of pardoning their errors; but, while this scheme was going on, a mutiny arose in his own army, and he was ever after necessitated to act with caution. Vectius Bolanus, his successor, was also in the like uneasy situation, from a want of unity among his men, over whom he had scarcely the shew of authority. Petilius Cerialis was more regarded, and by being successful in several sharp conflicts, acquired confidence. To him succeeded Julius Frontinus, who overcame all obstacles, carried victory with him, and subdued the long-resisting Silures. His successor was the renowned and warlike Agricola, who, finding the Ordovices had obtained some signal advantage over the Roman horse, put himself at the head of his troops, and nearly destroyed the whole nation; he completed the conquest of Mona, by dint of extraordinary ability and courage; he made no pretence for fame by these actions, and rather desired to conciliate the good faith of his enemies by lenient measures, than force it by the terror of the sword.

Hitherto we have beheld the fortune of war with a dejected eye, as having seen the Britons frustrated in their endeavours to counteract the progress of Roman arms; but, setting

aside their abrupt entrance into the kingdom, which was certainly in an hostile and marauding manner, yet, when viewed in a judicious and moral light, is softened by the numerous advantages that attended the Roman conquest, by a gradual amelioration of the native ferocity of the Britons. The Romans, after their care to improve and strengthen their acquisitions, and securing their several positions by a communication from one post to another, were not idle in the embellishment of their stations. Industry was continually exerted whilst they had any quiet from their harassing neighbours; and every means were employed to win the confidence of the natives, by the introduction of sciences and useful arts.

Agricola is mentioned, if not the first, yet the chiefest promoter of improvement: under his auspices was introduced a complete alteration in the manner of government; his officers were chosen from among those of a peaceable and generous disposition: by such means the abuses which had been prevalent, were reformed, and he gained more adherents to his cause, than would have been acquired by contrary measures.

Establishments were founded to improve the British youths, and care was taken to instil a principle of civilization, with the view to wear off the ill impressions formed of Roman manners and operations. Superior as they were in warfare, they were superior in genius and labor. By their judicious plans some permanent principle of refinement was imbibed by the hitherto

untamed, unpolished Britons; and when once the Roman ambition was gratified by the subjugation of the country, they strove immediately to eternize their fame by the formation of cities, and erecting magnificent and useful structures. It may naturally be supposed, that in aid of the power to beautify their several stations, large contributions were exacted; but Britons were freely to enjoy the conveniences accruing, and also the emoluments of several offices of state: under these circumstances, they were initiated into their peculiarities and customs, and in time found the value of the benefits arising from the connection.

The liberal arts and sciences were not the only matters of improvement, as they equally excelled in cultivation, and introduced many serviceable articles, particularly *red wheat*, now so valuable and prolific a grain; therefore, though the Romans appear in the light of invaders, plunderers, &c. it must be acknowledged, we are at this time, improved by their conquest over our ancestors.

The quietude which the Britons latterly enjoyed under the Romans who had initiated them into their mild and luxurious manner of living, was severely felt on their departure, insomuch that they became in a manner enfeebled, and unable to meet an enemy who now threatened them with formidable devastation. The impending storm, was for a time, prevented by a compromise for money, but this mode of ensuring safety defeated the intent of a

lasting quietness, and it was not long ere war was again their situation.

The Britons now saw the necessity there was of resolutely defending themselves, and engaged their foes; but, unfortunately for them, their success was not proportionate to their exertions; and in one contest they lost fourteen thousand of the army. Dispirited, distressed, and in a manner abandoning themselves from energy, they sought, from those whom they once despised and troubled, that relief they were of themselves unable to procure; but the Romans, fully occupied with distractions at home, denied their request of assistance, and left them to study their preservation, and extricate themselves from their difficulties by their own perseverance and valor.

Thus deserted, they despaired of effectually preventing the progress of the invading Picts, and became separated among themselves; some taking to the wilds and woods, and degenerating into their ancient barbarism; others, more revengeful, would harass and perplex their enemies, being inadequate to oppose them in an open engagement.

These contrary methods, and supineness, made them neglect the cultivation so necessary to their existence; and the consequent scarcity brought them to some reason, and returning industry.

This circumstance, however, procured the mortified Britons that repose which their efforts failed to produce; for the Picts, not understanding much of husbandry, found it necessary to retreat from the parts where they had established themselves, and left the Britons again in possession, whose diligence was crowned with a plentiful supply, as a reward for their labors.

Whatever sentiments of religion or Christianity had been cherished by them, it is recorded, that in this also they became inharmonious, and were divided. The clergy, to avoid a total neglect of the solemnities, which, if properly adhered to, would have more firmly united the man and the passions, applied for assistance to Gaul, from whence two bishops came, who, by perseverance and convincing arguments, restored order, and converted their prejudices.

At this time, the Saxons, who had joined the Picts, invaded the northern part of Cambria; and it is said, that St. Germain, one of the bishops, (who was assembling the Britons for an approaching baptism,) appeared no wise alarmed at the threatening danger, but steadily remained in the station he had chosen, which was at a place called Maes Garmon, in Flintshire: having expressly enjoined the Britons, that at the moment of the attack they should three times cry out "Hallelujah," it was accordingly performed with such enthusiasm, that the Saxons and Picts were, from this unexpected shout, and its distinct reverberation by the

surrounding mountains, so appalled with apprehensions that they were easily defeated, and terms of amity concluded.

To this time (anno 448), the Britons had several kings, and by murder Vortigern had risen to the throne. The course of his reign was so stained by perfidy and villany, that it would be painful to follow up the events in particular. To him may be ascribed the succeeding dismemberment of the kingdom, and all the disasters, cruelties, &c. during the Saxon settlement, who, in defiance of reason, policy, or safety, were expressly invited into the kingdom, under a cowardly pretext, by which they profited to their own advantage, and became in time the lords and governors of this country.

Considering the universal detestation in which Vortigern was held by the Britons, it is rather extraordinary he was suffered to reign so long; but the miseries that were borne by the unfortunate Britons from the ravages, massacres, and general barbarity of the Saxons, at length turned their attention to Ambrosius, a brother of their former chief, who went to Armorica, to avoid the tyranny of Vortigern. This prince, assisted by his brother, Uther Pendragon, came to the relief of the distressed Britons, who in great numbers readily joined him, and in a sharp conflict forced Vortigern to retreat to his castle in Carnarvonshire, where he did not find the safety he sought, as it was assailed and set on fire, by which himself and his women were consumed. Thus perished a man advanced in life, and after a reign of thirty-three

years replete with variety of fortune to himself and woe to the kingdom.

It was a fatal want of caution in the Britons (and should serve as a perpetual lesson, of the ill consequences) of inviting foreigners to assist them in defending the country from the Picts, and also countenancing the criminality of Vortigern's being separated from his wife to be united to Rowena, the daughter of the Saxon prince, who, perceiving the advantages of this country over his own, artfully procured sufficient bodies of his countrymen to be brought over, which established him for a length of time. It is true they were at one time driven back by Vortimer, a son of Vortigern, (at a time when Vortigern was deposed and imprisoned), but this was but temporary, as Vortimer was afterwards murdered by the contrivance of Rowena and connivance of his father, whom the infatuated Britons, blind to their interest, reinstated on the throne.

The Saxons soon after found means, by treachery, to slaughter upwards of three hundred persons of the first nobility and talents, at a meeting on Salisbury Plain, convened under social and harmonious pretences. Vortigern was the only one preserved, and from thence was never more in favor with the Britons, as he was, from his known partiality to the Saxons, strongly suspected of being concerned in the diabolical business; and perhaps that circumstance was the fundamental cause of his destruction. It may be necessary to observe the

remarkable pile now known as STONEHENGE, was erected to perpetuate that abominable deed.

Ambrosius, who succeeded, gained important advantages over the Saxons, and after recovering a considerable part of the country, ended his days by poison: Uther Pendragon then ascended the throne, and after seventeen years of successful enterprises against the common enemy, was also poisoned: his son, the renowned Arthur, now became the British monarch, who, without the addition of fable and romance, and considering him as a monarch and a man, was certainly a great character, and singularly successful in most of his enterprises; but there was undoubtedly impropriety in his conduct, by going on foreign expeditions when the security of his own country required his presence. In his absence, the Saxons who had joined the Picts, continually troubled the Britons, and on his return, made him sensible he had neglected that duty he owed to his subjects.

After a reign of twenty-five years, he was killed at the battle of Camlan, fighting against the united armies of Saxons, Picts, and the Regent, whom he had left to govern the kingdom, but who, in his absence, not only usurped the throne but married his wife.

From hence the various princes and circumstances through a period of two hundred and seventy-seven years, would be

uninteresting to describe, but in 819 the Saxon heptarchy was united in one power under Egbert, who denominated his government England.

The Britons who remained staunch to their principles and manners, still maintained an inveterate hatred to the Saxons, retired to the mountains, and settled themselves in that part of the kingdom now known by the name of Wales; governed by princes of their own, but considered themselves as under one king, who stationed himself in North Wales.

They did not, however, remain quiet, but were continually making inroads on the English territories; and joined another troublesome enemy of the English (the Danes), which so exasperated the Saxon monarch as to exact from him severe retaliation; and those Welshmen who were found to have passed the boundaries, were ordered immediately to be put to death. The unity of the Welsh and Danes did not continue long, for in 873 the Danes became an enemy, over-ran the southern part, and destroyed the churches and religious houses.

But the independence of Wales received a lasting blow from Roderic (surnamed the Great) consenting to become tributary to the English. Although this king had established several wise institutions, and became honored with an unusual dignity, this last measure cannot be palliated; as it was a tacit

acknowledgment of that slavery, against which they had with so much bravery repeatedly contended.

Roderic dividing Wales into three principalities, bequeathed them to his three sons. And South Wales became the portion of his second son Cadelh. (Among his successors several strenuously exerted themselves to preserve their independence; and, whenever under the necessity of appealing to arms, behaved with that prowess as must ever merit esteem, however unfortunate the termination). The succeeding princes of South Wales were,

907	1 Howel Dha.
948	2 Owen ap Howel Dha.
987	3 Meredith ap Owen.
998	4 Llewelyn ap Sitsyllt.
1021	5 Ryth ap Jestyn, an usurper.
1031	6 Howel and Mredith.
1042	7 Rytherch and Rys.
1061	8 Mredith ap Owen ap Edwin.
1073	9 Rys ap Owen and Rytherch ap Carado.
1077	10 Rys ap Tewdwr Mawr.
1115	11 Griffith ap Rys.
1137	12 Rys ap Griffith, called the Lord Rys.
1196	13 Griffith ap Rys.
1202	14 Rys ap Griffith.
1222	15 Owen ap Griffith.
1235	16 Mredith ap Owen.

The last-named prince died in 1267; and during the ten succeeding years continual endeavours, in various ways, were exerted to maintain their country from subjugation: battles and submissions were frequent, and contributions permitted. But in 1277 the final submission of South Wales to Edward I. took place, and since that time it has been annexed, with all Wales, to the British crown.

It is greatly to be lamented, that time and neglect have suffered so many superb monuments of Roman labor in this country to become mingled with the dust; or what a display of magnificence and simplicity, beauty and propriety, might now remain the testimonials of genius, perseverance, and worth. To them, under Agricola, are to be attributed the structures, &c. &c. which Caerwent, Caerleon, &c. abound with the ruins of.

Notwithstanding those places have so frequently been visited for the purpose of procuring some of the numerous relics buried in the dust, I could not resist an impulse to make one more of the number, nor without an hope my efforts would be successful. This was the original object of my tour; and I am much gratified with the result, by the interesting part taken by many to promote my researches, and the gift of several pieces of antiquity that were presented me, which, with the numerous coins, will be enumerated under their several heads in the ensuing pages. I am well persuaded, should any real antiquary, with the approbation of the possessors, be

at the pains of a diligent search, they would be rewarded, by producing to the world many curious and valuable articles that deserve a better fate than cankering in oblivion. To such only will those places be any ways interesting; for, to the cursory observer little else can be seen but ruins of walls, moulder-ing banks, overgrown with bushes, brambles, &c. where once shone cities resplendent with magnificence and population.

As early ages have borne testimony so highly creditable to the Silures, so, in all probability, will future time shew the vast importance this district will be of in a national view, from its abundance of coal, and rich stores of mineral, so pro-ductive, that there is no likelihood of their being exhausted. The improvements carrying on for the convenience of the country at large, and the numerous extensive establishments, are astonishing, and highly worth a tourist's trouble to visit them, if only to view the enterprising spirit existing among the opulent, and their extraordinary contrivances to obviate difficulties and extend their schemes; producing at once employment for several thousands of hands, and wealth to the kingdom in general.

To accommodate persons who are inclined to amuse themselves with so short and pleasant a journey, was the reason of my connecting these observations, and giving a resemblance of objects I thought worthy of notice. With this view it is offered to the public, and particularly to the visitants of Clifton and the Hotwells, as change of air and variety

of pleasing objects, divert the mind, and have a great tendency to restore the invalid; and those who are in the enjoyment of health may both please the eye and animate the feelings, yielding moral reflections inspired by witnessing beauty, grandeur, and sublimity of scenes, the joint efforts of nature and art; for this purpose I have united a concise directory to several interesting objects, and watchfully collected every scattered fragment of history, desirous of making it entertaining to the reader, and useful to the traveller, though conscious of my inability to decorate the page of history with the attire of graceful language, of places which have been so numerously and variously described by every power of fascinating and picturesque embellishments. This disadvantage was severely felt when measuring those steps which have been so accurately trodden and surveyed by Messrs. Coxe, Williams, and Warner, who were not only able to throw every light and lustre, by their abilities and eloquence, but employed that very language which alone could convey the true description and characters of places and countries, not only in their present state, but in their progressive fame or decay.

In this small tract is pointed out a route which will embrace a number of venerable piles, include scenery in beautiful forms and complexion, and direct to manufactories truly worth attending; a circuit by no means expensive, nor wanting of those necessaries which render travelling convenient: the whole may be performed in a few days, or protracted at

pleasure; the roads are excellent; the accommodations plentiful, and where they are not altogether good, are compensated by civility and attention.

I am aware of the number of directories extant, offering their assistance; but for such purposes, perhaps, they are not altogether applicable, being too voluminous, by combining a complete tour through the principality; but without any view to lessen them in the estimation of the public, (for they are certainly valuable in their kind), I flatter myself the following pages will fully answer every end that can be desired in so compact a route, and prove an useful pocket companion during an excursion which, I am induced to hope, will reward the tourist with pleasure, health, and delight; and actuate the reader to the exercise of candour, and where errors meet the eye they may not encounter the displeasure.

A TOUR, &c.

"To clear the course, and make the passage free,
"For travellers all."

WHEN the mind, for a considerable time, anticipates enjoyment from an undertaking, it is difficult to control our eagerness to commence, or suppress our impatience when obstructions are likely to oppose the execution.

Having formed a tour through some part of South Wales, and desirous of inspecting several matters of curiosity and singularity, (of which I had frequently heard), made me impatient to commence the journey, as no moment of the

revolving year could be considered so interesting, as the approach of harvest; when

> " Fair plenty now begins her golden reign;
> " The yellow fields now wave with ripen'd grain;
> " Joyous, the swains renew their sultry toils,
> " And bear in triumph home the harvest's spoils:"

exhibiting rustic happiness, among the busy groups in nature's landscape.

Although the day fixed for my departure was ushered in dark, rainy, and uncomfortable, it did not prevent my setting out, though obscured much beauty of the surrounding country, yet the pleasing villages of Westbury and Henbury were peculiarly attractive, as was Blaize Castle, seated on a lofty tumulus, thickly clothed with wood. The tongue being the organ of information, was employed in enquiring, from almost every traveller, the distance to the New Passage; and as they might perceive my anxiety to reach it, so they were willing to increase it by the usual ungenerous practice of giving misinformation to strangers.

On reaching the eminence of Black Horse Hill, the weather prevented a rich, beautiful, and extensive scene, combining land and water, from presenting itself. From Durdham Down to the Marsh Common, the road is bounded on each side with good hedges and lofty trees, but from thence, nearly to the Passage, all was open and uncheering; cattle were numerous, so were *geese*: the former bore testimony to the richness of the pasturage, and of the latter it is remarked, that those which are taken from hence have a fishy taste, probably from their feeding on shrimps, which frequently come up the drains cut from the marsh to the Severn.

On reaching the Passage, the weather became more kind; and as I was disappointed in crossing, from not knowing the specific times of the great boat's departure (which also takes carriages and horses), an opportunity offered of viewing a variety of different objects, from the partial gleam of sunshine that would sometimes burst from broken clouds: it being high-water, and a spring tide, a considerable degree of mag-

nificence was added to the broad face of the Severn; and whenever the sun remained clear, the Cambrian hills were beautifully displayed, and the cultivated country exhibited the luxuriant scene of an abundant harvest, bending with the bounteous gifts of Providence, waiting the hand of man, to make him sensible of it's goodness, and his heart grateful. It was only on those spots gilded by the sun's bright rays, that the country could be particularly seen, as all the rest was deeply enveloped in mist.

The views from thence are extremely picturesque; one presenting the entrance to the Wye, Piercefield woods, and a long range of ornamented hills and mountains; another, the entrance of the Bristol river Avon, woods of Portishead, and a vast sweep of Somersetshire; up the river, the forest of Dean, the Old Passage houses, Aust Clift, and a great tract of Glocestershire; and I was informed that down the channel, in fine weather, with the assistance of a glass, the places of Newport and Cardiff, as well as the Holmes islands, might be distinctly seen.

While thus delighted with the surrounding scenery, gazing on the Severn, and rambling over pebbles polished by the action of its waves, it recalled to my remembrance 'twas the celebrated SABRINA, of whom the fabulated story is thus penned by the immortal MILTON:

" There is a gentle nymph not far from hence,
" That with moist curb sways the smooth *Severne* stream.
" SABRINA is her name, a virgin pure;
" Whilome she was the daughter of Locrine,
" That had the sceptre from his father Brute.
" She, guiltless damsel, flying the mad pursuit
" Of her enraged step-dame Guendolen,
" Commended her fair innocence to the flood,
" That stayed her flight with his cross-flowing course.
" The water nymphs that in the bottom play'd,
" Held up their pearly wrists, and took her in,
" Bearing her strait to aged Nereus' hall;
" Who, piteous of her woes, rear'd her lank head,
" And gave her to his daughters to imbathe
" In nectar'd lavers strow'd with asphodil,
" And, through the porch and inlet of each sense,
" Dropt in ambrosial oils till she reviv'd,
" And underwent a quick immortal change,
" Made goddess of the river."

To avoid delay in pursuing a journey which might require dispatch, and having suffered that

inconvenience from want of information, it may not be deemed improper to give some instructions respecting the passage.

The course of the river stretches nearly east and west; consequently, those winds are to be preferred; the former, while the tide is on the flood, and the latter during its ebb; which, if the elements will permit, is nearly on the slack of its flux and reflux, when the great boat usually passes; but should the wind be from the northern or southern points, it will require the traveller to be at the Passage an hour at least before the above-appointed time. The state of the tides may always be known by enquiry at Bristol, at which place it is nearly half an hour later. The rates of passage by the great boat are,

	s.	*d.*
Four-wheeled Carriage	12	0
Two-wheeled	6	0
A Man and Horse	1	6
A Horse alone	1	0
A Foot Passenger		9

Small boats, capable of carrying a private party, are always ready, at the rate of 5*s.* exclusive of 9*d.* for each person.

As the sun had now sufficient power to make the mist obedient to its rays, leaving only a few suspended clouds midway down the mountains' sides, it unfolded to my view such a richness, that made me impatient to set foot on a country which was painted in colours beyond the magic powers of a Claude to imitate;—procuring a small boat, crossed the Passage, which, at high water, is about three miles; and from the rapidity of its current, the numerous sand banks and rocks, was convinced how necessary it is to be under the guidance of a careful person; and, in justice to those employed, it is right to observe, that they are in every respect perfectly qualified for the business.

The black face of Charston rock formed a conspicuous feature in this sheet of water: but as it is liable to be overflowed by high tides, from the summit having been employed in the construction of Newport bridge, it is found necessary to have a small obelisk on it, to point its situation. Some authors have presumed that this was the first landing-place of the

Romans in this part of the country, perhaps on the authority of a few coins having been found on it, and being the only place now surrounded by water; but this mistake has probably arisen from a place much to the westward of it, that was formerly insulated, though now united by earthy ties of sand and pebbles thrown up by the violence of the waters. The Monmouth shore is rocky, steep, and grotesque, and the red cliffs near the landing-place, capped with foliated vegetation, form an unusual and pleasing variety.

On reaching the summit of the hill, the inn presents itself; where, having given directions relative to my horse, which was to come over in the large boat, directed my course to Matherne, for the purpose of visiting the shrine of king Theodorick, who gloriously fell in the struggle for his country's liberty, on the invasion of the Saxons: of him it is recorded, that he marched an army in person and defeated them; but being mortally wounded in the engagement, was returning to die among his friends, and

desired his son to build a church wherever he breathed his last; which has been done, and where the following epitaph to his memory has been placed by bishop Godwin, decorated by painted ornaments and military emblems:

" Here lyeth intombed the body of
Theodorick, King of Morganuch or
Glamorgan, commonly called
St. Thewdrick, and accounted a Martyr
because he was slain in a battle
against the Saxons, being then Pagans and in
defence of the christian Religeon, The
Battle was fought at Tintern, where
he obtained a great victory, he died here
being in his way homeward, three
Days after the battle, having taken
Order with Maurice his Son who suc-
ceeded him in the Kingdom, that in the
same place, he should happen to decease a
Church should be built, and his body buri-
ed in the same, which was accordingly performed.
in the Year 600"

Among the remains of mortality in this church are the heart and bowels of Miles Salley, a bishop of Landaff, deposited, according to the direction of his will, near the tomb of king

Theodorick; and his body before the image of St. Andrew, in St. Mark's church, Bristol, anno 1516, when he bequeathed his mitre to Landaff; and, during his life, added considerably to the palace at Matherne.

Anthony Kitchen, otherwise Dunstan, was interred here in 1566, aged 90. This person is recorded for impoverishing the see of Landaff, of which he was bishop, that his successors considered it as nearly ruined by him. This man was originally a Benedictine monk of Westminster, afterwards abbot of Eynsham, near Oxford; which by officiously surrendering to Henry VIII. he obtained a pension of 133l. 6s. 8d. per annum, with the office of king's chaplain, and a restoration of some temporalities to the bishopric, when he was elected to the see.

Having satisfied myself with viewing the church and it's contents, I enquired for the bishop's palace, when my guide immediately pointed to a building resembling a barn; angry at the supposed slander, I desired him not to be witty

at my expence, nor attempt his "tricks on travellers," but his solemn declaration prompted me to believe what I wish I could refute. I asked myself, 'Could ever this be the residence of episcopal dignity?' I could make no reply, and not daring to cast my eyes on it again, knowing it had been unjustly injured in my mind, took my leave, silent and thoughtful, conscious of wrongly estimating value from external appearance. That it has been the residence of the bishops of the diocese no one can dispute the numerous authorities; and the following letter, which was written there, evinces that hospitality was as characteristic a virtue of the country in those days, as it is in the present exercised with such unbounded share.

"To the most reverend Father in God, the right honourable and
"my singular good Lord, my Lord of Canterburye's Grace,
"thes be dd &c.

"My bownden dewtye to your Grace most
"humbly premysed, havyng receaved your honorable L.res dated at
"Lambeth the 18th daye of November last past, requyryng me to certyfye
"your Grace the Names and Surnames of all and singuler Deanes, Arch-
"deacons, Chauncelers, Chaunters, and others having any Dignitye in
"my Cathedrall Church of Landaff, with all the Prebendaryes of the

"same, and also of all and singular Parsons and Vicares within my "Dioces and howe many of them be resydent, and where the absents do "dwell and remayne, and howe many of them, as well of my sayd "Cathedrall Church as of others benefyced, be neither Prists nor Deacons, "notyng also the Names of all such as be lerned and able to preche, "and finally howe many of them do kepe hospitalytye, as by the same "your Graces L'res more playnly doth and maye appere, I have send unto "your Grace herein enclosed a just and trewe certyfycate of all the pre-"mysed, according to my Dewtye, and your Graces expectations, beyng "readye at all times to accomplyish your Graces Commandement to the "uttermost of my Power, as knoweth the lyving Lord, who have your good "Grace in his blessed tuition.

"From my Manor of Matherne, the 20 Day of January, 1560.

"Your Graces to command

"ANTHONY LANDAFFE".

Leaving Matherne, I returned to the Passage inn by the boundary of St. Pierre's park, lamenting much less the exclusion from a sight of the pictures, antiquities, and beauties of the place, than being prevented an opportunity of knowing something of a man whose name is seldom mentioned but to be praised. Following a pleasing winding footpath, a short mile westward of the inn, on the brink of the cliff, reached Trinity Chapel, Sudbrook, and, as not unfrequently with deserted piles, gracefully mantled and encircled with ivy. Persons are now living who remem-

ber the chapel being used for divine service;

but for what reason the edifice was suffered to go to decay, is not strictly known; its relics shew it to have been of early date, (at least 700 years); but by whom, or how appropriated, whether as a priory, or otherwise, no traces are left, at least that I could learn,— its retired situation, overshadowed by trees, produced peaceful meditation; nor could I avoid feeling an interest for its future fate, from the encroachments of the Severn, which seems to

have "marked it for its own," having scarcely left sufficient support for its mouldering foundation. Its ruins are really picturesque, and its little belfry, raising its head from a mass of ivy, truly pleasing. It was in vain to attempt decyphering the characters on the remnants of tombs, as they were so incrusted with vegetation, and those deep grooves, which once constituted letters, were now inhabited by loftier grasses and mosses; having bestowed considerable pains and perseverance on one appearing of modern date, with difficulty made it out to be to the memory of Blethen Smith, who died 17th October, 1757, aged 60; of this person is related the following story:—"While on his death-bed he entreated that he might be consigned to the Severn, at a place called the Shoots; his friends earnestly requested him not to continue in such a wish, as it would be too painful a task on their feelings to execute:—he then revoked it, and desired to be interr'd in this chapel, adding, as it will eventually find a watery grave, from the river so hastily encroaching and sapping its foundation, his desire would be gratified." The following lines

may not be uninteresting, as they contain so true a description of the chapel in its present state :—

" A mouldering structure then appeared in view,
" Around whose top the creeping ivy grew :
" Once a fair church, adorned by curious art,
" In crumbling stones now dropping part from part,
" White-thorns and briars interwoven round,
" Vie with its top and fill the desert ground ;
" Denying entrance to the curious eye,
" To view the graves that underneath them lie :
" When thus my thoughts with meditation glow,
" And thus my words in mournful accents flow :
' Is this the place where numerous footsteps trod ;
' Where living votaries fill'd the house of God ?
' Where the full chorus of the sounding choir
' Bade one loud strain of prayer and praise aspire ?
' How silent now the desolated spot,
' Its paths untrodden, and its use forgot !' "

Near the foot of the chapel, are the remains of a Roman entrenchment ; but as considerable part has been destroyed by the Severn washing its shores, it is not easy to discern what might have been its original shape or size, the present elevated rampart encloses an area of upwards of 300 yards, and the whole appears nearly of a right-angular form, except bending inwards at the west-

ward point; it is presumed formerly to have been separated from the main land, and erected by the Romans, to cover the disembarkation of their troops. This place is considered as one of the links in the line of camps and fortresses from Bath to the greater stations in the country of the Silures, as it was an undeviating principle with them to have a direct communication from one place to another unobstructed, were the distance ever so great. Some coins of that empire have been found here, but I could not learn who had any in their possession.

A short walk across the fields brought me to the small village of Portscuit; where I found nothing remarkable, but rendered interesting from a knowledge of its hospitable Rector.

At the extremity of those plains called Caldecot Level, stand the picturesque and interesting ruins of its castle. The magnitude and figure, joined to the variety of forms for the different purposes of defence, shew it to have been, in early ages, of considerable consequence; sufficient vestiges are

remaining to perceive that elegance was added to

solidity, and leave not the shadow of a doubt, that it was adapted for the residence of a noble proprietor: and historians pronounce, this place was *particularly connected* with the birth of king Henry VII. The real time of its founding is uncertain. Leland says, "the castle of Cale-"coyd longing to the Kinge, is in base Vente-"land, toward the Severn shore, not far from "Matthern," and Dugdale relates, that in 1221, Humphrey, earl of Hereford did homage, and

had livery of his castle of Caldecot; the ancestors of the Bohun family were very early possessors; and on the assassination of the earl of Hereford, in 1397, the castle was taken to by the crown, but was restored to the son by Henry IV; at his death it became the property of the earl of Stafford by marriage; and on the division of the estates among the Bohun family, it was retained by Henry VI.; afterwards it belonged to Edward IV. who granted it to lord Herbert, of Raglan, afterwards created earl of Pembroke; it then reverted to Henry VI.; and was again taken to by Edward IV.; by Richard III. it was returned to the duke of Buckingham, a descendant of the earl of Stafford; but when both the duke and his son were beheaded for rebellion, the castle was, by Henry VIII. added to the duchy of Lancaster, from which it was leased by the earls of Worcester, during the reigns of Elizabeth, James I. and Charles I. and is now held by C. H. Leigh, Esq;

It cannot but be regretted, that mansions so long in succession of noble families should be

suffered to decay; one would imagine the pride of ancestry would be sufficient reason to preserve the residence of their progenitors, and the various matters belonging to it from dilapidation, and hand down the mode and construction of different ages to posterity. It is a subject that diffuses a gloom over the fancy, and tinctures the thoughts with sorrow.

For defence it was strong, and almost impregnable; and from the variety of formation, it is evident it was built at different times, as Saxon and Norman characters are still visible. The entrance and front of the castle have well survived the injuries of time, and give it a grand and venerable appearance: the ivy, with which it is thickly coated, makes it difficult to discern its upper form, and now serves only as a retired retreat for those birds which withdraw from the busy scenes of day. The whole has been surrounded by a moat, which, when the river Throggy was more serviceable, might have been easily filled with water; the remains of the keep, and the communications, a curious observer may

trace, and find abundant matters to prove its former consequence: its original erection was undoubtedly for security, the situation determining it not to be chosen for the sake of beauty, as it neither commands grandeur of scenery or singularity of landscape; yet, on the whole, has an awful and pleasing effect.

In all probability these parts have borne great interest, for we are told, the Throggy was navigable unto Caerwent, which was a mart of some consequence; if this was the case, it is not unlikely but Caldecot was intended for the protection of the surrounding country. That Portscuit was anciently a port we are certain from history, as well as the tradition of the natives, but time, and the alteration of the currents in the Severn, have reduced this once busy place to a little creek, scarcely ever used, except in imminent danger, by the small craft that navigate the Severn and Wye.

One can rarely travel for any distance in this quarter, without perceiving indubitable proofs of

the splendor that has reigned. Indeed the local situation, and numerous conveniencies, were sufficient inducements to give these parts the preference to others, and to render them eligible to the Romans for stationary purposes. Throughout the whole kingdom it is but seldom we can discover the want of judicious reasons in any of their fixed residences; their roads for communication are numerous, and monuments of their unwearied assiduity, convince us that nothing was left undone for convenience or security.

Although the present appearance of Caerwent has nothing respectable or inviting, yet it deserves every attention that can be bestowed by the antiquarian or lover of those scites memorable for having been the scenes of magnificence, genius, and heroism. Roman greatness has at this place shone with a splendor little inferior to any other part of the kingdom; fragments of stately piles, and innumerable coins and medals, have been found to prove the consequence this place has borne among their stations.

It is situated on the Via Julia, or military road, which, Camden informs us, was made in the year 80, by Julius Frontinus; but now few are the remains whereby it can be traced; the walls which enclosed the fortified space may still be ascertained by close investigators, and those parts which are distinct, exhibit, perhaps, the most perfect remnants of Roman masonry in the kingdom, and prove the judicious means they used to render their works as lasting as could be done by human perseverance. Some idea of its original strength may be formed by a part, nearly ten yards long, and of the whole thickness, which has separated from the rest and completely rolled over. LELAND, who was here in the sixteenth century, says it had then the appearance of having been "Sumtyme, a fair and large Cyte;" that the "places where the 1111 gates was, yet appeare;" and, "in digging they finde fundations of great "Brykes, Tessellata, Pavimenta and Numismata, "argentea, simul et ærea."

British histories of the central ages are in general silent relating to Caerwent, nor are the Welsh

writings very communicative, and the spot which was originally occupied by numerous Roman edifices, are substituted by few houses, cottages, and a church, all of which were apparently raised from the fragments and facings of former splendor; and, in all probability, where 10,000 souls have inhabited, there are not at this time more than 100 persons.

This was the Venta Silurum of Antoninus, and is supposed to be the capital of the Silures before the Roman conquest; afterwards it was considered to have held its dependence on Caerleon, to which place there is a tradition, that it also had a communication by a subterraneous passage, whose entrance was from a lane which still retains the name of Arthur.

On three sides may be observed what was once a deep moat; and on the western end of the south front, are three half bastions projecting from the wall, of octangular form, each side measuring about ten feet: the whole is in circuit more than a mile, and where the walls are most perfect,

may be twelve feet thick at the bottom, and eight or nine at top; reaching to the height of twenty-four feet. It is impossible not to notice the pleasing and singular appearance of the ruins, in some places broken, mouldering, and melancholy; in others agreeably diversified by a variety of foliage: trees and ivy adorn the ruins, and contribute to awaken sensations of departed magnificence, now only known from the silent records, with which the place numerously abound.

There is no doubt but Agricola resided here for some time; and Tacitus's assertion of his endeavouring to soften the ferocious manners of the Britons, by introducing refinements and specimens of the arts, seems realised by the tessellated pavement, which, when originally discovered in 1777, must have been beautiful indeed; as the following is the elegant description by Mr. WYNDHAM:

"The pavement is in length twenty-one feet six inches, and in breadth "eighteen feet, a border edged with the Greek scroll and fret, surrounds the "whole, but on the north side this border, being upwards of three feet, is "much broader than on the other side; this was designed in order to "reduce the circles within a square. These circles are about three feet

"diameter, and are encircled with a variety of elegant ornaments, and "separated from each other by regular and equal distances. I think there "are thirteen of these circles. The pieces of which the pavement is com- "posed are nearly square, the breadth of them being about the size of a "narrow die; these are of various colours, blue, white, yellow, and red; "the first and second are of stone, and the yellow and red are of terra cota; "by a judicious mixture of these colours, the whole pattern is as strongly "described as it would have been in oil colours. The original level is "perfectly preserved, and the whole composition is so elegant and well "executed, that I think it has not been surpassed by any mosaic pavement "that has been discovered on this, or even on the other side of the Alps. "In my opinion, it is equal to those beautiful pavements which are pre- "served in the palace of the King of Naples at Portice. I am strongly "inclined to think, that it is of the same age with Agricola."*

Another author adds, "This probably was the "state room or tent of the prefect of the Legio "Secunda Aug. from an inscription on a stone dug "up here.—JULIA ESSEUNDA vixit annos XXXV."

From this description I was eager to see it, and having procured leave of the tenant, and given a precaution not be disturbed in my research, proceeded to the place through an orchard whose spreading branches were bending under the weight of fruit, and modestly paying homage to that soil

* Archæologia.

which gave them birth; but conceive my astonishment and chagrin, to find the remnants of that once precious relic, were then being unmercifully rooted up by a *sow* and her *numerous offspring*; after driving them away, (with no slight degree of anger), found but little remaining, and that little so defaced by weeds and grass as to be scarcely seen, and though a day was nearly bestowed in removing the obstructions, I was unable to trace any characters, excepting the central circle, but am, by the kindness and assistance of Mrs. LEESON, of Pontypool, enabled to present this now interesting relic to the public; as the original drawing in the library of Ruperra was destroyed in the unfortunate conflagration of that place in 1783.

When first discovered, the proprietor enclosed it with a wall, and it is truly to be regretted, that such methods had not been persevered in as would have preserved that excellent curiosity from the injuries of the elements and the depredations of numerous visitors, who, not regarding how much they effectually mutilated its original

beauty, were anxious to possess specimens of that antiquity, and have, by piece-meal, conveyed away a considerable portion: the remains, bearing no longer any traces of its former character, lay in heaps for those who can or will be as well satisfied with the die, as the elegance of the pavement. Several of them I brought away, but could not find one yellow, therefore presume that colour was stained, as the native hues of the stone were blue and white, and the red a terra cota; all of which were inlaid in a white cement: much of the orchard is very uneven, and strewed with desolated heaps of ruins, manifesting the foundation of other works of their labour; with remnants of tiles, on the surface of which are many parallel lines, forming triangles on the centre.

In a field west of the church, called the Copses, are found vast quantities of scoria, or Roman cinders, the relics of melted ore, which, from the mode of smelting in those days, caused so considerable a waste, and readily accounts why such abundance are found on ancient Roman scites;

they extracted the ore by first laying an high tier of wood, and then a layer of iron stone spread over it, thus alternately, until the pile had reached the intended height, from which small particles would escape.

Near the walls I observed a curious *shrub* to vegetate resembling the elder both in appearance and smell; but on close investigation, found it materially to deviate, not only by a fibred stem, but a much longer and narrower leaf. To the Rev. Mr. WILLIAMS I was particularly indebted for the following account of it (and whose indefatigable assistance in several other interesting matters, must entitle him to my thanks), it has the reputation of being found only in places formerly the scenes of dreadful contests; it dies with the stalk, and rises fresh every spring, yielding an abundance of juice, which is deemed excellent for swellings or bruises, and particularly in diseases peculiar to the female breast; its Welsh name is DAWLE-GWAD-GWYR-MARW; that is, *growing from human blood.*

To add to the obligation, he presented me with the remains of a beautiful Roman pillar; the capital is enriched with the leaf expressed in the composite order, the shaft decorated with foliated ornaments in excellent preservation: these he has allowed me to place in his yard, near the road side, for the inspection of the curious. He likewise enabled me to procure numerous coins, many of which had been carefully preserved for a gentleman who visited the place several years ago, but is now supposed to be dead. Thus I was extremely fortunate in becoming the possessor of a valuable lot, which, otherwise, I might have been years in obtaining; valuable, not as a treasure of money, but of information, from the resemblance, figures, and inscriptions that adorn them. In the person are traced those features which characterise a haughty, cruel, or merciful disposition; on the reverse, that legendary eloquence beyond the reach of manuscript; we likewise see females, whose beauty has been the happiness or misery of whole kingdoms, and has swelled volumes in description; and others, though, perhaps, once famous, totally unheard of in the page of history.

When we thus reflect on the number of these expressive records which are found, we cannot suppose them to be the remains of negligence, but the enlarged idea of a great and flourishing nation, scattered on days of triumph and public solemn occasions, to point where they had colonized and civilized a barbarous people by their laws, learning, and useful arts. Nothing can more positively determine them to be NUMMI MEMORIALES, than the following circumstance: a pit in Glamorganshire, attributed to remote antiquity, with no history or tradition to inform us by whom it was worked, was lately explored, when a Roman coin of Victorianus was found, which is in the possession of Lady SALUSBURY.

As those in my possession are of undoubted authority, I shall insert those which are in the most perfect preservation; but as coins or medals are those curious subjects requiring the pen of a virtuoso, or deep read in history, to set them in their true light, I dare not attempt a particular illustration of them, as my abilities are incompetent; and with diffidence shall observe briefly on such as appear most striking.

A double face without any legend;—reverse not distinguishable, but ROMA to be observed. This coin is presumed to be one of *Cunobeline*, which British histories write *Kymbeline*, he lived in Rome (which accords with the word Roma), and was in great favor with Augustus Cæsar, by whom he was made knight, and by which means the peace of Britain was continued without the payment of tribute.--*Vide* SPEED.

An embattled head, legend COII; by some it is supposed to be a coin of COMIUS;—reverse, horse feeding, denoting a country at peace, rich, and in abundance, COLA.

A plain head; reverse, man on horseback, with a large branch over his shoulder. It has been so defaced by scouring, that the beauty of its ancient character is nearly lost. The reverse of this coin resembles one found near Sudbrook encampment, as mentioned in the 5th vol. of the Archæologia.

Laureated head, ANTONINUS PIUS. P. P. T. R. P. COS. III.; reverse, figure resembling Hope, a wreath in one hand and a wand in the other. Legend not discernible, but the head is in the most beautiful antique preservation.

Ar. Laureated head, CAESAR VESPASIANUS AUG.; reverse, a sow, beneath it IMP. the remainder so encrusted with sacred rust, as to make it not legible. A similar coin is in the collection of the earl of Pembroke. *Vide* Gentleman's Magazine, 1767, p. 498.

Filleted head, D. N. DECENTIUS. NOB. CAES.; reverse, the CROSS which Constantine beheld in the skies, so placed that it formed the Greek sentence, "In hoc vince," and considered an auspicious omen, on the eve of the battle against Maxentius. SALUS. D. D. N. N. AUG. ET. CAES.

Laureated head, IMP. CAES. DOMITIAN. AUG. GERM. COS. XX. reverse, an altar; above it, SALUTIS; below, AUGUSTI. On the restoration of health to the Emperor.

Laureated head, IMP. CAESAR. TRAJAN. HADRIANUS. AUG.; reverse, figure denoting Peace, with cornucopia in one hand, and vest gathered up with the other, supposed to be filled with fruit, denoting that plenty is the consequence of peace. PAX. COS. III.

Head, coronâ radiatâ, type of divinity, the spikes representing the rays of the sun, IMP. CAES. ALEXANDER. AUG.; reverse, figure seated in a careless posture, the emblem of security. SECURITAS PERPETUA.

Ar. Radiated head, IMP. CAES. ANTONINUS. AUG.; reverse, figure seated between two military emblems, that by the fidelity of the army public peace was preserved. FIDES.

Plain head, MAXIMUS CAES. GERM.; reverse, large vase which contained the frankincense; and other sacrificing utensils. PIETAS. AUG.

Ar. Female head, with hair enclosed in a net, FAUSTINA AUGUSTA.; reverse, figure seated, with a cornucopia in her hand. FORTUNAE MULIEBRI.

Head, coronâ radiatâ, IMP. CALLECTUS. FAV.; reverse, figure representing Peace, with vest filled, an olive in one hand, a wand, the symbol of divinity, in the other, PAX. AUG. MI.—This is one of the most perfect ever seen.

Female head, PLAUTILLA AUGUSTA; reverse, figure in the character of Piety, an infant in one arm, a wand leaning on the other, PIETAS. The

child denotes a pledge of peace, as it often took away the occasion of war by cutting off all disputes to the succession, which made it to be considered a public blessing.

Spired head, IMP. VICTORIANUS. AUG.; reverse, figure, a cornucopia in one hand, pointing with the other to the ground, which had yielded abundance. ABUNDANTIA.

Female head, SEVERINR. AUG; reverse, figure between two military ensigns, CONCORDIA MILITUM, signifying public peace was preserved by the allegiance of the army.

Head, CUALLICINLICINIUS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, figure being crowned with a wreath by Fame, supported on his right hand; in his left a spear; on the ground, a bird with a wreath in its beak. IOVI. CONSERVATORI. S.N.N. The bird expresses the symbol of vigilance, by which the state had been preserved.

Laureated head, IMP. CONSTANTINUS. P. F. AUG; reverse, three standards, S.P.Q.R. OPTIMUS, the remainder not legible; an important service performed by three legions which were thus particularly honoured; but this reverse likewise denotes an oath of fidelity to the Emperor.

Helmeted head, IMP. GRATIANUS. P. F. AUG; reverse, a soldier in a galley, who appears to be encouraging others to follow him. GLORIA. HONORUS. to perpetuate some memorable invasion.

Head, D. N. HONORUS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, a soldier with the labarum in one hand, a globe in the other; GLORIA ROMANORUM, denoting, the glory of Roman arms could place the standard in any part of the world.

Head, coronâ radiatâ, IMP. VICTORIANUS. P. F. AUG; reverse, figure with a spear in one hand, a shield in the other. ROMA. AUG. that a preparation for war, was the security of peace, and of Rome.

Ar. Studded fillet head, D. N. VALENS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, a seated figure, with the wand of divinity by her side, being crowned by Fame URBS ROMA; by religion and arms the Roman city is secure.

Ar. Filleted head, D. N. VALENTIANUS. IUN. P. F. AUG.; reverse, figure of Rome seated, with a wand in one hand, and being crowned by a small Victory, which she supports on the other; by her side is a child, and above it a star, denoting it to be a pillar of the Julian race. URBS ROMA.

Ar. Head, IMP. CAES. DOMITIANUS; reverse, victory seated, offering a wreath. VICTORI.

Filleted head, D. N. VALLICINLICINIUS. NOVE; reverse, a building resembling the gate of a city, representing the Castra Prætoria at Rome, the magazine of corn for the people. PROVIDENTIA.

Laureated head, being crowned by Fame, CONSTANTINUS. IUN. NOB. C; reverse, BEATA TRANQUILLITAS; an altar with a globe upon it; above, three stars; by victory blest tranquillity was restored to the world.

Head, D. N. VALENTINIANUS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, soldier keeping a captive down with one hand, and supporting the labarum with the other; denoting the conquest of a colony.

Head, coronâ radiatâ, IMP. CALLECTUS. P. F. AUG; reverse, a galley with several rowers; denoting prosperity. VIRTUS. AUG.

Filleted head, GRATIANUS. P. F. AUG; reverse, a Roman crowned by Fame, and receiving offers from a supplicant on his knees; legend not discernable.

Head, CRISPUS. NOB. CAES; reverse, an altar with VOTIS. XX. upon it, and a globe with two stars. TRANQUILLITAS.; tranquillity is restored to all nations in the world.

Spired head, IMP. CA. TACITVS. AUG; reverse, soldier marching with a lance in his hand, and iron mace on his shoulder, such as was sometimes used by Roman troopers. MARS. VICTOR.

Head, D. N. VALENTINIANUS AUG; reverse, soldier with foot on a captive, and supporting the labarum. VIRTUS. EXERCITI.

Wreathed head, IMP. LICINIUS P. F. AUG.; reverse, soldier, resting one hand on a shield, in the other a weighty javelin, called Pilum. MARTRION SERVATOR.

Plain head, D. N. MAGNENTIUS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, two female figures with joined hands, representing unity supporting a shield, on which appears, VOT. V. MULT. X. VICTORIAE. D. D. N. AUG.; amity procured by some memorable victory.

Helmeted head, URBS. ROMA; reverse, wolf suckling two children; above them a branch, a symbol of victory, and two stars; denoting them to be pillars of the Julian race, and preservers of the Roman city.

Filleted head, VALENTIANUS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, soldier, one hand on the head of a captive, and in the other a labarum, on which was wrought the cross that Constantine beheld in the skies. GLORIANO HONORUS. *Vide* ADDISON on Medals.

Head, with rich studded fillet, FLIVI. CONSTANTIUS. NOBE.; reverse, two soldiers with spears in their hands, looking at a star above them. GLORIA EXERCITVS. The father of Julius Cæsar was supposed to have been changed into a star, the appearance of which was considered a good omen, and caused the saying, "See, Cæsar's lamp is lighted in the skies."

Laureated head, CONSTANTINUS. MAX. AUG.; reverse, two soldiers with spears, guarding two standards; GLORIA EXERCITVS, in honor of victory, and in compliment to the soldiers.

Head, CONSTANS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, two figures of Fame, with wreaths. VICTORIA AVGUSTORUM.; struck on the defeat of some barbarians.

Head, CONSTANTINUS. AUG.; reverse, two soldiers, between them the labarum with a cross, such as our Saviour died on. GLORIA. EXERCITUS.; struck to please the soldiery, who (not the emperor) at that time managed the empire.

Ar. Head, D. N. VALENTIANUS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, a large wreath, round it, VOT. V. MULT. X.; meaning that the people vowed that the emperor might live ten years; and by multiplying the number, wished him, in their acclamation, a return of many ten years.—*Vide* CAMDEN.

Head, IMP. COLLECTUS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, a galley in the distinction of happiness. VIRTUS. AUG.

Head, coronâ radiatâ, IMP. C. CURL. DIOCLETIANUS. AUG.; reverse, two figures with hands joined, CONCORDIA. MILITUM.; signifying that amity was restored among the soldiers.

Head, with rich studded fillet, GRATIANUS. AUG.; reverse, a soldier leaning on his shield with one hand; and holding the standard with the

other, GLORIA.; denoting, the standard once fixed on a new colony, it was his duty to support it with his life.

Filleted head, D. N. CONSTA. P. F. AUG.; reverse, a galley, in which is a seated figure appearing to be a captive, and a soldier supporting the labarum, being crowned by victory. FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO; in honour of vanquishing an enemy's fleet.

Filleted head, CONSTANS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, two figures offering very thin wreaths; between them a narrow sprig, probably parsley, a garland of which was the reward to the victor in the Nemean games. VICTORIAE. AUG. Q. N. N.

Helmeted head; reverse, figure resembling Hope, with the symbol of divinity in one hand, and the other leaning on a hoop, or circle, the emblem of eternity. The figure is mantled in a MUSLIN, a dress so thin that the symmetry of the person can be seen through it.

Wreathed head, CONSTANTINUS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, figure with rays darting from his head, and a globe in his hand. This coin is one to shew the extent of human vanity and the effects of flattery, denoting him the offspring of the sun, by whose beauty the world was enlightened.

Wreathed head, VALENTINIANUS. NOB. CAES.; reverse, figure with a spear in one hand and thunderbolt in the other, denoting, if aroused to war, a terrible and irresistible force in battle.

Head, coronâ radiatâ, IMP. VICTORIANUS. AUG.; reverse, figure offering the emblem of peace with one hand, and supporting the wand of divinity in the other. PAX.

Head, with studded fillet, D. N. GRATIANUS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, figure leaning in an easy posture, with a patera in her hand, from which the offerings were poured on the altar. SECURITAS. REPUBLICAE.

Filleted head, CONSTANTINUS. MAX.; reverse, two armed soldiers, standing by two military ensigns, GLORIA. EXERCITVS.; this coin was struck in compliment to the army, on the defeat of Maxentius.

Filleted head, VALENTINIANVS. P. F. AUG.; reverse, a winged figure dressed in a MULTICIUM, moving in haste, a palm branch in one hand, and a garland in the other, below which is a star; RESTITUTOR. REPVBLICA. This coin was struck in Antioch, on Britain being restored, which was in a declining state.

With twenty-two others, principally duplicates to the above; and thirty-eight more, not sufficiently perfect to be described with certainty.

Leaving Caerwent, at the distance of three miles, Penhow presents itself on the left.

Of this castle a small part only remains, now humbled to the occupation of a farm-house; it was originally a fortress of consequence, and the residence of the Seymour family, who came to Britain at the Roman conquest, and were the ancestors of the present illustrious families, the dukes of Somerset and Northumberland. It has been thought that Penhow was of Roman origin, and one of the agrarian protections to the forest of Wentwood; at all events the Romans seized this with others of the same nature, and for the same purpose. The situation is in many respects delightful, and the scenery around it charming; some parts open and exposing distance, mingled variations, and objects valuable or interesting; other parts are so thickly clothed with wood and forest-like appearance, to prevent further penetration; seated, as the castle is, on an eminence, it is also sufficiently retired and suited for quietness, for in some parts of its neighbourhood, and nearly close to it, it cannot be immediately discovered. The wood perceived on the right hand, linking the chain of low mountains, is called Wentwood, formerly of astonishing extent, and a royal chace.

Turning from the turnpike opposite to the sign of the Unicorn, pursued a rough, uneven, narrow road, overshadowed with trees; the opening from it assumed a more barren aspect, but the distance was diversified by a small village and straggling cottages, the whole bounded by the Bristol channel, Holmes islands, &c. &c. forming a pleasing picture of innocent and rural life, and a fine perspective landscape, so happy when presented on canvass.

About a mile and half from the road is Pencoed castle, commanding a prospect at

once delightful and pleasing; here we have an additional instance of the revolution in matters of this kind; another guarding fortress to the forest of Wentwood, and consequently used for the double purpose of residence and defence, for we find that, originally, the families to whom they severally belonged, made it the constant rule to reside in them; thus they were in general as magnificent in construction, as convenient for use and entertainment. Several very respectable families acknowledge their ancestors as proprietors, and residents at this place, and from its remains we may form a considerable idea of its former consequence.

How far such fortresses were or were not attended with suspicion and trouble to the several governments, and gave protection to plots and schemes against them, I shall not presume to dwell on; but one cannot behold the dilapidation of such mansions without feeling a regret that they should be suffered to go to decay; or that the consequence of families should degenerate in such a manner as to disable them from main-

taining that hospitality they undoubtedly distributed, and the necessary employment they would naturally give to a number of the neighbouring poor.

There is a majesty and a peculiar venerableness attaching to the entrance; and the remnant of what was once the keep, being partially covered by creeping foliage hanging gracefully from its battlements, adds an additional dignity to the whole. The variety of the ornamental parts, and different shape of the windows are numerous, some wholly destroyed, some patched, and only those of immediate service being preserved, cause the building to assume a singular appearance, and presents a true picture of faded prosperity.

All the remaining apartments, once the seats of mirth and festivity, are converted to the various purposes of its farming inhabitants, not regarding regularity otherwise than suiting their occupations: having walked round it, but with no inducement to ask for a sight of the inside, I sat down to take the representation of its gateway, and

when nearly finished, its occupier came forward with a countenance it was fortunate he had not visited his dairy with, or it would have made a dreadful *change* in its contents, on my drawing being completed, shut my book without allowing him to see what I had been doing, which did not make his manners more pleasing or his looks more becoming.

I afterwards understood that this conduct (which was never shewn in any other instance,) probably proceeded from his being at variance with his landlord, by whom he might presume I was sent to make some remarks respecting dilapidations.

Returning to the road by the way I came, at the distance of two miles on the left an elegant mansion presents itself, seated on an eminence, decorated with all the appendages to denote a residence of distinction, and to render it an interesting and pleasing object to the traveller: enquiring of an old woman the name of the place and proprietor, she answered, Lanwerne, the seat

of Sir ROBERT SALUSBURY, Bart. Desirous of learning a little the characters of persons of a country which I was then a stranger to, induced me to be inquisitive for that of its possessors; when giving me a look, as if pitying my ignorance for not knowing that, which, she presumed, the world were well informed of; she spoke of them with a warmth of praise, animated by a peculiar pleasure her lips appeared to take in expressing their names, and convinced me she not only conveyed the voice of general esteem, but that the gratitude of her heart was in unison with the sincerity of her lips.

From Christchurch-yard all travellers will unite in admiring the delightful and exquisite scene its commanding situation exhibits; from thence the eye roves with unceasing satisfaction, and receives enjoyment from the beautiful assemblage of every species of variety, in the combination of which, a glorious landscape of nature's production is conspicuously portrayed, and with elegance united.

This church was early founded; and within it, in the middle of the chancel, is a flat grave-stone, placed 574 years since, which has long been an object to the superstitiously credulous. The neighbouring people say, 'tis belonging to a saint, but this is not confirmed, nor even to be imagined from the characters and inscription perceivable on it; but such reliance was placed on its having a miraculous power to heal diseases on the eve of Ascension-day, that numbers who were disordered in their limbs, have conformed to the notion, by remaining on the stone from sun-set to sun-rise the next morning. In the Archæologia it is recorded that sixteen were placed on it in 1770; but the disappointments which many, doubtless, experienced, have greatly lowered the belief of its virtues, and few are now the annual visitants to try its efficacy. From what circumstance this strange custom has arisen, there is no account, traditional or otherwise; and, no doubt, the fallacies it has occasioned will, in a few years, obliterate its fancied property.

The sculpture on the stone consists of the figures of a man and a woman, with a cross between them, their arms placed across, with their hands on their breasts; but no particular manner in their dress, whereby to distinguish them. The cross is somewhat curious in formation, and rather more elegant than the figures; the whole surrounded by an inscription in old Latin characters; of which I dare not hazard a literal transcript, as two gentlemen of celebrated genius have materially varied in their descriptions. Mr. WILLIAMS's being, "Hic jacent Johannes "Colmar et Isabella uxor ejus, qui obierunt "Anno Domini 1376, quum aiabus ppicietur "Deus Amen."

And Mr. COXE's, "Hic jacent Johannes —— "et Elizabetha uxor ejus qui obierunt anno do- "mini M,CCC,LXXVI. quorum animabus mise- "retur Deus Amen." In consequence of which I have been induced to make a representation of the characters, leaving it to be elucidated by the reader, according to his own judgment.

Descending a precipitous and troublesome hill, of nearly three quarters of a mile, reached Caerleon: ruins present themselves at the foot

of the bridge, originally intended for its protection; and, as numerous coins have been found where the piles of the bridge are now placed, there is no doubt of its being the original pass: to a person unaccustomed to such a bridge, and the rattling noise whenever any weight is going over, naturally occasions some apprehensions for their safety, from the flooring being apparently

loose, yet, on close inspection, it will be found to be perfectly secured from removing, fixed to the posts by an horizontal bar, instead of being nailed at the ends, which was found inadequate to remain long, from its aptness of splitting. The accounts of the tide rising so high as to cover the bridge, are erroneous; it never has been known yet, but that assertion has given rise to the idea of their being purposely loose to prevent it being carried away in such cases; as it undoubtedly might, were it compacted so as to be an impediment to the rapid current. The amazing floods to which the river is subject, would render it not surprising if accidents did happen, but this is very rarely the case; and the judgment of the contrivance is evinced by the durability of the structure, and continuance of its safety.

" Caerleon, now step in with stately style,
" No feeble phrase may serve to set thee forth;
" Thy famous town was spoke of many a myle,
" Thou hast been great, though now but little worth;
" Thy noble bounds hath reacht beyond them all,
" In thee hath bene King Arthur's golden hall,
" In thee the Knights and worthies did repose."

As the shores of the Severn were in every respect preferable to the opposite coasts of Somerset and Glocester, we may suppose the Romans would not leave a place calculated for their schemes and suitable for their existence, to be unoccupied by them; accordingly, Caerleon, or Isca Silurum, was chosen as their principal or head-quarters in these parts; having under their management no less than twenty Roman stations, three tribes of Britons, and the accommodation of the whole Second Legion of Augustus, whose signatures LEG. II. AUG. are numerously found, recording their memory by this mode of historic eloquence. This place is by Richard called Isca Colonia; by Antonine, Isca Legionis Secundæ Augustæ; others, Isca Augusta; and some, setting aside all Roman origin, say, it is from Lleon, an ancient British king, who founded it, and that it was greatly enlarged by Dunwallo Moel Mutius, the father of Belinus and Brennus, four hundred years previous to the birth of Christ, and distinguished as a royal residence and burial place of British kings for many centuries, with a variety of other reasons for the

etymology of the word; but Mr. Owen, the ingenious and indefatigable author of the Welsh Dictionary, affirms it is derived from its situation near two powerful streams, or Caer-Llion, the city of waters; after these various interpretations, it would appear almost an offence to superior information in offering a further conjecture on the probability of its derivation; but, as this place contained the phalanx of the second Legion, the word Caer might be emblematical of that strength, and Leon, an abreviation or corruption of the word Legion.

Without fatiguing the mind with its meaning, or from whence or by what it acquired its title, there are sufficient vestiges to ascertain that it was formerly of great repute, and the seat of genius, magnificence, and luxury: from its relics we may contemplate the revolution of the Empire, the decay of consequence, and the instability of human labor; sunk is the pride of power and efforts of industry; her riches mingled with the dust, and all the high display of elegance and art no longer perceived but by the crumbling frag-

ments found in every direction. No distance can be gone over without some emblem to call our attention, nor much depth of ground laid open without disturbing some portion of matter, with which it was formerly embellished; remnants of mouldings, inscriptions, coins, scraps of vases, pavements, altars, baths, subterranean passages, aqueducts, and vaults. An historian in the 12th century gives this description of it "Many vestiges of its ancient splendor are yet remaining: "stately palaces with their gilded tiles, which "formerly displayed Roman grandeur, and many "sumptuous edifices; also an exceeding high "tower, remarkable hot baths, ruins of ancient "temples, theatres encompassed with stately "walls partly yet standing, subterraneous edifices "are frequently met with, not only within the "walls, aqueducts, vaults, hypocausts, stoves, "&c."

This place is stated to have been for consequence the third city in Britain; and from the year 182 to 521 it was an archbishopric, and had three churches, one of them annexed to a con-

vent of religious virgins, and sacred to Julius the martyr; the second dedicated to St. Aaron, and had a noble choir of canons; the third was the metropolitan church of Wales, inhabited by monks, who retained it till the translation of the see by St. David to Menevia; when the subjugation of the neighbouring districts was completed, there was also an establishment formed for an abbot and monks of the Cistertian order; nor was it less conspicuous after the Saxon conquest, as it is reputed to have been foremost in the annals of literary fame by containing an university for philosophy, astronomy, and other sciences.

The present place occupies but a trifling part of the ancient city, as the boundaries may be tolerably well traced, and the adjoining suburbs were extended for some miles, where there are indubitable proofs of having been many sumptuous edifices, which in all likelihood were the detached residences of the higher persons. The most perfect part of the original boundary is in Round Table Field, where the wall now remaining is

about fourteen or fifteen feet in height, and twelve in thickness, enclosing a space of 530 yards by 460, the longest sides pointing to the south-east; contiguous to the enclosed ground, but without the walls, is an oval concavity or campestrian amphitheatre, known by the name of King Arthur's Round Table; it is 74 yards by 64, hollowed in the ground with regular sloping banks, and had seats rising one above the other; but whether of stone or turf, has been the subject of much conjecture, though it is affirmed that in the memory of some still living, stone seats were found, and that a figure of Diana, composed of alabaster, was dug up near the place.

The lane which unites with the Table Field is called the Broadway, where it would be impossible to give a catalogue of interesting relics strewed where the soil has been lately broken up for the purpose of procuring building stone, which induced me to employ some labourers for a day, when I acquired several different specimens of terra cotta, forming small vases, not more numerous than the characters upon them, some executed

with a great display of skill, and the embellishments which adorned them combine much elegance; in one, my feelings were particularly engaged, it contained a clay, not only peculiarly smooth, but singularly firm, moulded with a considerable quantity of ashes and some pieces of unconsumed bone; this circumstance gave birth to the strongest emotions of my mind excited by admiration, conjecturing it might be the small funeral monument, transmitting to posterity a life not only distinguished for bravery, but signalized by other memorable deeds.

Two portable mill stones added to the collection from this place, measuring fifteen inches diameter, being part of the provident attention always paid by that great and considerate people.

Returning by the lane opposite to the field before spoken of, is the Berrows, presumed to be a corruption of the word Bear-house, and probably where they kept the wild beasts, to be opposed to the gladiators in the amphitheatre.

I now extended my walk across a few fields to a bathing house belonging to —— Butler, Esq. to examine a curious stone said to be in the wall of that building: abridged of all light but what glimmered through the crevices of a darkened window, must plead if its representation is not so correct as I could wish, after the considerable attention that was paid, in the hope it would throw a light on the history of a person once famed in this place, the dimensions of it are 20 by 12 inches: below it are three stones, or rather bricks, two of which are scribed with numerous lines, and in various forms, the center appeared to consist of small Roman characters, but the darkness of the situation baffled all attempts to describe them.

In the possession of Mr. Nichols is an intaglio, set as a ring, representing the figure of Hercules strangling the Nemean Lion, the execution is good, and the setting is not only of the purest gold, but unusual form; the politeness of this gentleman, in allowing me to take

an impression and representation of it, demands my thanks, and for the tradition of the place he was so obliging as to communicate.

A large hollow tile, one end being 16, the other only 13 inches, and in length 23, with the impression of LEG. II. AUG.

And a pavement 16 inches square and two in thickness, with the same impression, were presented me; the former by Sir ROBERT SALUSBURY, Bart. and the other by the Rev. Mr. EVANS, of Careau, both of whom must accept my warmest acknowledgments: they are supposed to have belonged to a *laconicum* or sarcophagus.

In a wall belonging to Mr. WILLIAMS, currier, is a remarkable inscribed stone, but so defaced by washing with lime, as nearly to obliterate the characters. This stone was brought from the mound or keep, and was part of those bought of the lord of the manor, from the foundation of some buildings there.

There is also in the possession of Mr. RICHARDS, a Venus Marina, with a Dolphin in her hand in basso relievo, but the sculpture is very rude, and time has nearly obliterated the design.

I now directed my course to a newly-erected house near the church, belonging to Mr. GETHIN (who owns the market-boat, which goes regularly to Bristol); near the foundation of the above structure were raised fragments of free-stone, containing some remains of inscriptions, the whole of which is supposed to have been originally a pillar. After considerable labor bestowed on them with mops, brooms, and brushes, sufficient characters were legible on the pedestal to trace that it was dedicated in the consulate of Maximus, during the reign of Alexander Severus, the others composing the shaft are said to be an inscription by the second Augustan Legion, and indicating the æra when it was erected.

Desirous of acquiring for the public any relic which might be interesting, I applied to the

owner, hearing they were of no value to him only as suiting the uses of the mason, determined to rescue them from such a disgrace, offered either to procure an equal quantity of stone suitable for the purposes required, or to pay him any fair determined price; Mr. GETHIN consented, and assured he would call on me for that purpose the next time he came to Bristol; *not fulfilling his word,* I revisited Caerleon with the intent of concluding the bargain, when lo! I arrived just in time to see the remains of the last stone fixing for a window frame. I have taken the trouble to detail this, not as a reprimand for an offence offered to myself, but to the public, who must therefore accept the description and representation on paper, as I was disappointed in presenting them in their real state, and having them placed in a suitable situation for the inspection of the curious.

I cannot take my leave of the numerous testimonials of former greatness which have been found at Caerleon, without requesting an offer of

my thanks to Miss MORGAN, not only for her graceful and obliging affability in allowing me to inspect those in her posession, but for her laudable pursuit in collecting the antiquities of a place once so celebrated in the annals of fame; a pursuit not only influenced by her general wish of doing good, but encouraged by an elegant refinement of literary taste.

I have often lamented that others have not been actuated by similar views, or that a public repository has not been instituted in a district so distinguished; it is an establishment that might be conducted at a small expence, and would furnish to the world many rare antiquities of importance, and induce the labourer to repair to the receptacle with any found medal, (valuable to him only by its metal) who otherwise hastens to the silversmith, where all its recorded history is at once lost in the crucible. Should such an institution be formed, it is needless to say the pleasure I should take, not only in contributing what the country has furnished, but in adding some valuable records of historic eloquence.

In the collection of Miss Morgan are coins of Julia Augusta, Vespasian, Antoninus Pius, Hadrian, Nerva, Plautilla, Claudius, Faustina, Constantine, Constantius, Carausias, Magnentius, Carinus, and Salustius; with fibulæ, crosses, lamps, jasper terressa, &c. From such a collection having been made on the spot, I could little hope to acquire many coins; but after canvassing every probable person, was able to procure a few by the assistance of my indefatigable guide, *J. Jones, the parish-clerk* (whom I must not forget to mention); give John but plenty of *Cwrw**, and I will pronounce no person can be more indefatigable, or shew the *tiquities* of the place to greater advantage. After having taken me to the church, and exhibited a rib four feet in length and five inches in breadth, with an assurance of it being from the famous dun cow, (which, by the bye, was only from a small grampus), he led me to Arthur's table; after looking stedfastly on the spot for some time, "There, there," says he, "sunk that king and two thousand men;" fetching a deep sigh, accompanied with three distinct pointings of his finger: "Two thousand

* Ale.

"men!!! surely there is not room?" on seeing John's wrath begin to kindle at my disbelief, I yielded to his information, considering how vain it is to contend with a man, not only versed in *earthly* matters, but knowing with precision the space occupied by mortality, and whose interest it was to *pack* mankind as close as possible.

Of a castle there are some remains, but by whom founded is uncertain; some have said by Romans, others British, and some Saxons; but it is certain it was of great strength at the time of the Norman conquest: the mound, on which the great tower stood, is in much the same state it ever was; and let who will be the projector, gives us a lasting proof of their indefatigable labor; its construction being no less than 300 yards in circumference at the bottom, and 90 at its height. Within the last century there was a large portion of the structure remaining, which suffered considerable injury from the memorable hard weather in 1739. Some idea of the massive building may be formed by surveying part of the foundation, which is not less than 20 feet deep,

10 broad, and 30 long, in one solid mass; in its pristine state this castle was, no doubt, a fortress of very considerable consequence; and is mentioned in historic annals as having been subject to many assaults and defences; of the importance of Caerleon we may guess, when we are told that Alfred sent a fleet against it, and was unsuccessful; and though the reason was in some measure occasioned by his wanting a greater force elsewhere to check the Danes, still it shews it was not an easy matter to subdue this once flourishing place.

As a residence of several Welsh chieftains, it underwent continual feuds between the English and them, and as circumstances happened, was in different possessions without any permanent advantage to either. Jowerth seems to have been its fiercest assailant, and after a variety of fortunes was settled in it by a grant from Henry II. who, in 1169, on his journey to Ireland, went to Caerleon, and being supicious of Jowerth, then lord of it, turned him out; on Henry's departure, Jowerth's two sons and a numerous band re-took

the town, but were baffled in their attempts on the castle: thus they were continually harassed and harassing, until the complete subjection of Wales by Edward I. who restored the castle and lordships to the original proprietors, the family of Clare. Edward IV. and Richard III. were afterwards possessors, and it continued a long time the property of the crown; the Morgan family of Llantarnam, became its owners, and from their descendants it has been purchased by the present proprietor, Mr. BLANNIN.

I know not what reason there is to conclude there was no station here previous to the arrival of the Romans, as the natives could not be insensible of its conveniences, and the advantages resulting from its situation. It is known that, in early ages, the chief or prince of a district had a fixed place for government, and in those rude times, none was more applicable for the purpose than Caerleon, which the Romans observing, they would naturally dispossess the settlers, and appropriate it to themselves, and when firmly established and enjoying quietness, certainly added

vast improvements. The monument of their labor which enclosed the camp is a parallelogram inclining to a square, and the suburbs are said to have extended nine miles, reaching to Christchurch and St. Julian's.

Before I take my leave of Caerleon, I cannot resist offering a slight description of those classic heroes, who were once its inhabitants; trusting it may not be thought inapplicable to the subject, or uninteresting to the reader.

The camp of a Roman legion had generally the appearance of a fortified city, cleared from all impediments, and a square of 700 yards was fully sufficient for 20,000 soldiers. The Prætorium, or general's tent, was usually in the midst, and raised above the rest; the streets perfectly strait, and from the rampart to the tents, was 200 feet, enclosed by a wall generally twelve feet high, of a similar breadth and depth, surrounded by a ditch. Whenever they departed they carried all their necessaries for service and food, in addition to their arms; and their accustomed pace,

loaded in this manner, was 20 miles in six hours: they considered being within the walls of a city, as a mark of weakness, and usually stationed themselves by the side of neighbouring rivers, and most frequently made it their lasting residence. In Britain were three legions of these hardy and active people; one of them at the place lately under observation, which from all its collected appearances, was not less than the rest. A legion usually consisted of a body of 6831 Romans, and when all their attendants and auxiliaries were included, the whole amounted nearly to 18,000; their arms were an open helmet with a lofty crest, a breast-plate and coat of mail, greaves on their legs, and a buckler on the left arm, four feet long and two and an half broad, formed of wood covered with an hide, and strongly guarded with plates of brass; a light spear, and a ponderous javelin called Pilum, six feet long, headed with a triangular point of steel of 18 inches, and a short well tempered two-edged sword, were the missiles of the infantry; the weight of whose armour and all appendages

was 90lb. which must give us a proof of their natural strength.

In a legion were generally 726 horse, accoutred with a helmet, long shield, light boots, and coat of mail, a javelin, and a long broad sword; and sometimes an iron mace and lance; on the soldier's entrance into service, an oath of fidelity was administered with circumstantial solemnity; and under these impressions his own will was in every thing submitted to the command of his leader, nor any hesitation to become sacrificed whenever the safety of the empire or emperor required it. Religion and honor inspired him with firm attachment to his standard, and the glittering of the eagle added fury to his exertions to maintain it; to abandon that sacred ensign was held ignominious and impious, and neither hopes nor fears could make him betray or desert it: such being the power, numbers, and resolution of the Romans, we cannot be surprised at their carrying victory wherever they chose, leaving a noble example to those who have the love of their king, and welfare of their country at heart.

It must, however, reflect great honor on the Silures for their courage and perseverance against so formidable a phalanx, whose appearance was calculated to excite dismay, and whose impetuosity must seem irresistible; but their long and determined opposition, proves the idea of independence a principle amazingly encouraging, and extremely impressive to direct every exertion for the preservation of that freedom, which was not wrested from them without the most noble and arduous endeavour on their parts to prevent it.

I was unable to procure more than one coin of singularity; it has a plain head, with the hair arrayed in a peculiar stile, with three balls in good relief; the reverse is not so perfect, but appears to represent the prow of a ship, with three balls below it; the acrosteria, or prow of a ship, distinguishes a naval victory of a maritime city; and as the coin does not appear to be either Roman or British, (if ever the Danes did strike medals to perpetuate events), this, probably, might be to record the fruitless attempt made by the fleet of king Alfred on this place; another has evidently a

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Leaving Caerleon, I returned by its bridge, and cannot think of passing its tottering frame without relating an extraordinary circumstance still in the memory of several persons; the story was frequently told me at that place, but I shall beg leave to avail myself of Mr. Coxe's description.

"On the 29th of October, 1772, as Mrs. Williams, wife of Mr. Edward "Williams, brazier, was returning from the village of Caerleon to the "town, at eleven o'clock at night, with a candle and lanthorn, the vio- "lence of the current forced away four piers and a considerable part of

" the bridge; on a fragment of this mass, consisting of an entire room,
" with the beams, posts, and flooring, she was hurried down the river,
" but preserved sufficient presence of mind to support herself by the rail-
" ing: on arriving near St. Julian's, the candle was extinguished; she
" immediately screamed for help, and was heard by several persons, who
" started out of their beds to assist her; but the violence of the stream
" had already hurried her beyond their reach; during this time she felt
" little apprehension, as she entertained hopes of being delivered by the
" boatmen of Newport; her expectations were increased by the numerous
" lights which she discovered in the houses, and she accordingly redoubled
" her cries for assistance, though without effect. The fragment on which
" she stood being broken to pieces against a piece of Newport bridge, she
" fortunately bestrode a beam, and after being detained for some minutes
" by the eddies at the bridge, was hurried along towards the sea: in this
" perilous situation she resigned herself to her approaching fate, and,
" addressing herself to Heaven, exclaimed 'Oh! Lord, I trust in thee,
' thou alone canst save me.' About a mile from Newport, she discerned
" a glimmering light, in a barge which was moored near the shore, and
" redoubling her cries, was heard by the master of the vessel; after hailing
" her, and learning her situation, he cried out 'keep up your spirits and
' you will soon be out of danger:' then leaping into the boat, with one of
" his men, rowed towards the place from whence the scream proceeded;
" but some time elapsed before he overtook her, at a considerable distance
" from the anchorage of his barge; the night was so dark that they could
" not discover each other, and the surf swelling violently, the master
" repeated his exhortations, charged her to be calm, and not attempt to
" quit her station; fortunately a sudden dispersion of the clouds enabled
" him to lash the beam fore and aft to the boat: at this moment, how-
" ever, her presence of mind forsook her, and eagerly attempting to throw
" herself forward she was checked by the oaths of the seamen, who were
" at length enabled to heave her into the boat; but could not disengage

" themselves from the beam till they had almost reached the mouth of " the Usk; this being effected, not without great difficulty, they rowed to " the shore, and embayed themselves till the first dawn of the morning, " when they conveyed her in the boat to Newport. Though Mrs. Williams " was in an advanced state of pregnancy, she received so little injury from " the perilous accident, that after a few hours repose she returned to Caer- " leon.—I have been thus minute in detailing the particulars of this providen- " tial escape, because it has been related with so many improbable circum- " stances as to occasion doubts of its reality. For the truth of this narrative, " I can adduce the testimony of Mr. Jones, of Clytha; Mr. Kemeys, of " Mayndee; and the Rev. Mr. Evans; all of whom soon afterwards con- " versed with Mrs. Williams: to Mr. Evans in particular, she uniformly " repeated the same account, and confirmed it on her death-bed with the " most solemn asseverations. The disinterested conduct of the master and " boatman ought not to be omitted; notwithstanding the peril to which " they were exposed, and their active exertions, they repeatedly declined " the liberal recompence offered by Mr. Williams."

Turning short to the left, I went to Upper Bulmore, to see a large sculptured stone, near the door of a farm house by that name; it was found a few feet below the surface where it now stands, and is four feet by three and a half, representing a man seated in an arched recess; the right hand is mutilated, as is much of the whole; the left resting on a globe; it is supposed to be designed for the statue of an Imperator, surrounded with many ornaments, though with little remains, but that little has a claim to elegance.

Passing the venerable mansion of Kemeys, the lofty brow of its hill is thickly mantled with wood, where, on its summit is a building stiled Kemeys' folly. I ever dislike repeating a report to the prejudice of others; but as the following is so neat a repartee, and perhaps will inform why the appellation is applied to many other buildings, I must, therefore, forego my general inclination: the proprietor boasting to his relation that he had erected a building from which he could see several counties, "Then I am sorry for it, as "several counties can see THY FOLLY!"

A neat bridge of three arches bestrides the Usk, and has the reputation of being built by the celebrated architect of Pont-y-Prydd. The country about it is extremely pleasing, and through one of the arches an edifice was particularly attractive, which I understood was Langibby, the seat of W. WILLIAMS, Esq. As that place was one of my objects in view, it hastened my departure from the bridge, and ascending a hill, reached Tredenoc church, when its steeple was undergoing a repair from the effect of a thunder-storm, the materials for which purpose had immured the object of my visiting the fabric; having removed them, it presented a sepulchral stone to the memory of a soldier of the second Augustan Legion, three feet square, but a border of three parallel lines on each extremity reduced the inscription to two feet;

D.M.IVL.IVLIANVS
MIL.LEG.II.AVG.STIP
XIII.ARMOR.XI
HICSITVS.EST.
CVRAAGENTE.
AMANDA
CONJUGE

It is thus expressed by the learned, "Diis mani-
"bus, JULIUS JULIANUS, miles legionis secundæ
"Augustæ stipendiorum octodecim armorum qua-
"draginta hic situs est cura agente amanda con-
"juge." It was discovered five feet below the surface at the external wall of the east end of the church.

I soon reached the great road, whose perpetual inequalities displayed every grace of country, pleasing to the fancy, combining beauty with improvement. Langibby house is seated on a gentle rise, whose proprietors being from home, gave me a serious disappointment; the stable doors were garnished by the fronts and pads of foxes, and a few favourite unkenneled deep-mouthed hounds announced the approach of a stranger: the whole characterising the residence of hospitality, elegance, and domestic life. Ascending a steep hill by the side of a small park well stocked with deer, reached its castle almost secluded by the redundancy of foliage that was encrusting it, and the noble trees which were overshadowing it, not only deprived me of an opportunity of

taking a drawing, but pictured a melancholy gloom of departed fame.

The remains of the castle are very mighty, nor can the figure of former apartments be correctly traced. LELAND, speaking of this place, calls it "the castle of Trergega, 11 myles from "Cair Usk, in middle Venceland. Yt is otherwise commonely cawlled Lankiby, because it "is in the paroche of Kibby;" and CHURCHYARD, who wrote in the reign of Elizabeth, thus describes it in his time:

"——— Upon a mightie hill
"Langibby stands, a castle once of state;
"And where there is some buildings newe of late
"A wholesome place, a pasting plat of ground,
"As good an ayre as thereabouts is found:
"It seemes to sight, the seat was plast so well,
"In elders daies, some duke therein did dwell.*

The earls of Gloucester, in the Clare family, were once possessors; then the earls of March, of the Mortimer line; since which time it has

* Alluding to the duke of York, who once slept there.

continued in the Williams' family: no records are found to prove what events occasioned the destruction of the fortress or the figure it has formerly borne. In the unsettled time of Charles, Sir Trevor Williams is particularly mentioned as among the parliament's adherents, but afterwards became a strenuous supporter of his sovereign, and an object of Cromwell's suspicion.

The mansion is on a pleasing spot, and reported to be of Inigo Jones's building; the effect of it has grandeur united to simplicity, and affords a delightful view of the vale, the sinuous windings of the Usk, and woods indefinitely varying in their forms, tinged in colours corresponding to the light or shade of the atmosphere, presenting to the imagination every pleasing sensation of enjoyment.

At a mile distance the town of Usk unfolds itself to view, overlooked by its venerable ivy-mantled castle and walls; the country is beautifully diversified by woods, corn fields, and innumerable interesting objects, the whole bounded

by the great Skyrrid, generally attired in misty blue; an elegant bridge steps across the stream,

and through one of its arches the river is seen retiring behind its verdant banks; a long range of pebbles divides the transparent waters, which not only sparkled at the separation, but murmured at the interruption.

Usk is beheld with redoubled pleasure by those who have been accustomed to the tame and uninteresting sight of low and long levels; the

variety to be viewed here is truly beautiful, happy in the display of hill and dale, wood and water, verdure and fertility smiling with agriculture, promising rich rewards to the industrious; though divested of the rough features of crags or rocks, still the wildness of its appearance creates such sensations of delight as are neither tiresome to the eye, nor fatiguing to the imagination; the majestic mountains in the neighbourhood are pleasingly diversified in their forms, while the remains of the castle, and an elegant-constructed bridge, connecting the town with the road to Pontypool, add not only dignity but delight to the scene. The most eligible station to view this place is, from the terrace adjoining the castle, from whence the intermixture of houses, pasture, &c. forms a singular contrast.

The town is not large, not having more than 170 houses and about seven or eight hundred inhabitants, having no trade of consequence to occupy their attention, but who appear to enjoy the quietness of retirement in this pleasing place; the streets are neat and cleanly, and the river,

which is remarkable for the goodness of its fish, (particularly the salmon), winds in beautiful curvatures amongst gentle and quick rising hills, and glides its silvery waters close to the town, which bears the name of antiquity, being called Burrium, or enclosed town. In all the neighbouring fields are innumerable vestiges to prove that in early age it has been of consequence; but none to decide the controversy, whether or not it was Roman; it is supposed to have been formerly of much greater extent, and the appearance of paved ways has been seen on turning up the ground of the adjoining meadows.

At Usk there has been originally a priory of five Benedictine Nuns, founded, as we are informed, by Richard de Clare, and Gilbert his son, earls of Marches, for whom the orisons were performed. Part of one of the rooms on the first story is well worth observation, for the devices (which are thirty in number) representing emblazoned coats of arms, no doubt the armorial bearings of the founders or supporters: in DUGDALE we find this priory rated at 55l. 4s. 5d. per

annum; it is a life estate, now the property of my much esteemed friend Mrs. JEFFERY, a character distinguished for possessing a superlative share of instinctive literary endowments, with a high and cultivated genius, uniting the scientific excellence of the head to the moral goodness of the heart. Part of the building is appropriated to a farm house, and the entrance to it is through an arched portal from the church yard.

The church has nothing to recommend it to notice for superbness of building, or elegance of ornaments; it is a low structure, but very ancient, and may be plainly discerned to have been originally much larger; for the tower (now at one end) has been formerly in the middle of the edifice, which then bore the form of a cathedral; but the transept and choir are no longer in existence, and the whole was (as customary) contiguous to the priory. The tower has something singular in appearance, being similar to an embattled addition to a castle, and Norman architecture is the characteristic of the pile.

An inscription in remote orthography, on a narrow brass plate in the chancel, has much excited the attention of the learned, not only in determining the explanation, but the language in which it is composed; by one it has been considered to denote the long residence of the Romans in these parts; by another, to be an epitaph on a professor of astronomy, and head of the college of philosophers at Caerleon: but Mr. OWEN has decided it to be Welsh, in the dialect of Gwent in the 15th century, I shall therefore avail myself of that gentleman's information and observation, resulting from a genius which stands so pre-eminently distinguished.

"I shall here exhibit the inscription as it stands on the plate, pointing "out such words as are correctly written, according to a known system of "Welsh orthography, by capital letters; and by italics such words as are "tolerably explicit, thus:

"Nole clode YR ethrode *YAR* LLEYN *aluocade* LLAWN *hade*
LLUNDEYN
"A barnour bede BREYNT a pile tyneyaroty hanabe
"*Seliff* sun o eir sinn a seadam yske eval huske
"Deke *kunimedis doctor* KYMMEN llena loe i LLAWN oleue.

"I come now to the difficult part of my task, the restoring of the Usk "inscription to its true reading; in so doing, I shall be guided, in the first

" place, by the peculiar orthography of the Gwentian dialect, which, from " the proofs already mentioned, should be particularly attended to.

" The most popular metre in use about the time of the writing, is, in the " next place, a guide to be followed with considerable reliance; but at the " same time selecting that to which the words will best apply in their pre- " sent form, and with the slightest alterations: the one fixed upon to an- " swer such intention is, the CYHYDEẐ WASTAD, or the *even metricity*, " thus defined in the Bardic Institutes. 'The characteristics of the even ' metricity are a verse of eight syllables, and the length of the stanza to be ' from four to sixteen verses, possessing the general principle of the Canons; ' this metre is extremely free, and assumes, better than any other, the ' rhythmical harmony of the lines, and the verses flow with regular ' accent; and it is a most suitable metre in compositions of love and elegy, ' and is more universally used than any other, except the smooth metri- ' city in compound metres.' Having traced out the plan, which appears " to me most rational, I accordingly give the following as a probable read- " ing of the inscription:

Nota clod yr ethrod yar lleyn*
Advo cud† llawn hwde llundeyn
A barnwni bed breynt ap llyd‡
Yn e varn a fu henefyd§
Selyf synn o eir hwn a fu
A daiar wysk ei wal kysku
Dewr kymmode doeth a chymmen‖
Llen a lluc i lawn oleuen!

The meaning of which is:

Mark this object of fame, to the disgrace of the blade ¶:
were he not covered London would be in difficulty.
Then let us consecrate the grave of Braint ** son of Llydd ††
who in judgment was an elder††;
Solomon profound of word, was he;
and the sod of Isca his bed of sleep!
Ardently he would reconcile the eloquent, and the wise ‡‡;
the clergy and the laity would be fully illumined.

* Another reading, *Neut clad yr athro dayar lleyn;* Ah, is not the grave of the great teacher the sod of the vale.

† Or, *Advo cad*, were there a battle again.

‡ Or, *A bardoni beird breynt ay lles*, and the lore of the bards of privilege and their joy.

§ Or, *Yn ei varw sy en hafles*, in his death is become their misfortune.

|| Or, *Teg y kimmod* doctor *kymmen*, fairly the eloquent doctor reconciled.

A free reading, according to these notes would be:—Ah behold the grave of the great teacher is the sod of the vale! when a battle took place London felt embarrassed; and the song of the Bards of ancient lore and their joy, all vanish through his death: he who was like Solomon, profound of word, on Isca's banks his couch of sleep! fairly the eloquent doctor reconciled disputes: clergy and laity were fully enlightened by him.

¶ The original word for this is *Llain*, which signifies any thing stretched out flatly, also a flat slang of land; a vale.

** The meaning of this word is *privilege;* but as it has been used for a proper name of men, I have taken it in that sense, otherwise no name occurs as the object of the inscription.

†† These parts of the original are so obscured, that it may be made any thing else of the same length.

‡‡ I have preserved an ambiguous form, like the original, in this line, for if it were written and pointed; ardently he would reconcile, the eloquent and the wise; the epithets eloquent and wise, might be applied to him who is described as the reconciler.

What is now a prison was once a Roman Catholic chapel, where many parts of the structure are perceivable, and in the gothic style, particularly the southern gateway, but that to the north is now filled up.

Of Usk castle, very little can be said of its present splendor, nor can we perceive it ever bore ensigns of magnificence. It is ponderous in construction, and not remarkable for singular contrivances; one gateway remains which was the principal entrance, and the groove which contained its portcullis may be seen; round and square towers, as usual, were its chief strength, and from the eyelet holes an enemy might be descried or annoyed: the baronial hall was 48 feet by 24 wide; the shell of the whole spreads over a large tract, (of which part is converted to a farm,) with a character speaking it to have been founded in the Norman æra.

In the reign of Henry III. Maud, the widow of the earl of Glocester and Hereford, had the castle and manor of Usk assigned to her as a dower; in 1314, when the last earl of the Clare line died, the castle was conveyed by Elizabeth his sister, to her husband John de Burgh; their grand daughter Elizabeth was married to the duke of Clarence, the third son of Edward III; their daughter Philippa married Mortimer, the earl

of March and Ulster, a lord of Wigmore, Clare, and Connaught, and marshal of England; he died at Cork in 1381; his son Roger, who was born in 1374 at this castle, went with the king to Ireland in 1896, but three years after he lost his life through his own incautiousness of being in an habit similar to his opponents; his eldest son, Edmund, was married to Anne, the daughter of the earl of Stafford, but as no issue was left by them, the castle, &c. was inherited by his nephew, the duke of York, who had two sons born here, both of whom became kings of England, viz. Edward IV. and Richard III.; on the death of Richard, Henry VII. who married the daughter of Edward IV. became the proprietor: it now belongs to the duke of Beaufort, who has purchased it of lord Clive.

The ruinous state of the castle is, by the natives, ascribed to Owen Glendour, perhaps the consequence of the famous battle of Usk, fought between him and the prince of Wales, A. D. 1405, in which Owen was defeated with the loss of 1500 of his men, and his son taken pri-

soner. Owen Glendour, or Glendwr, was in much estimation with the Welsh, who *still* conceive him worthy of being reverenced, and maintain, that his consequence was such as to have his birth attended with extraordinary prodigies. HOLLINGSHEAD tells us a singular story, that at his birth his father's horses were found standing in a torrent of blood; and SHAKESPEARE makes him say of himself, that

> "The front of Heaven was full of fiery shapes,
> "of bursting cressets—and at my birth,
> "the frame and the foundation of the earth
> "shaked like a coward.
> "At my nativity
> "the goats ran from the mountains, and the herds
> "were strangely clamorous in the frightened fields.
> "——— I can call spirits from the vasty deep,
> "And teach thee, cousin, to command the devil."

During the reign of Richard II. Owen was in favor at court, and possessed great influence, insomuch that Reginald, lord Grey, of Ruthin, (who was at enmity with him), could not obtain a desire relating to a portion of land which sepa-

rated his estate from that of Owen; but in the succeeding reign of Henry IV. Owen was discountenanced, and Reginald procured his claim; and on an unsuccessful application to Parliament upon this business, Glendwr took up arms and asserted his right to the crown of Wales, as a lineal descendant from Llewellin. His first enterprize was the defeat and capture of his opponent Reginald, whose estates were consequently pillaged. Edmund Mortimer, uncle to the earl of March (who was heir to the crown at Richard's death), raised an army to oppose Glendwr, anno 1400, but was taken prisoner, and his army discomfited. The king also went with intention of giving him battle, but, owing to tempestuous and singular storms, was under the necessity of withdrawing his forces. This circumstance was looked on by the parties, as purposely contrived by the magic of the Welsh chief, and contributed to raise his consequence with his adherents.

As Henry was by many deemed an usurper, Owen was assisted by lord Percy, the earls of Worcester and Northumberland; and his captive

Mortimer at last joined in the scheme to dethrone the king; but this project was defeated by the event of the famous battle of Shrewsbury, in which contest the prince of Wales (afterwards Henry V.) was wounded in the face by an arrow, but, not dispirited, he gallantly continued in the battle till the victory was acquired by the king's forces on the 21st of July, 1403.

After this, the royalists being partly sent further northward, the several castles and posts which the king had in Wales, were confided to the care of different persons of known fidelity; among the rest we find Usk was entrusted to Sir Edward Charlton, of Powys.

Glendwr well knowing that Charles VI. king of France (father-in-law to his late sovereign, Richard II.) wanted not inclination to avenge his death, entered into a treaty which was agreed upon at Lanpardam, in 1404, to assist by an invasion of England, and the Scots were also in his favour: he had a defeat in Montgomeryshire, and from thence retired into Gwent; his next

action was at Craig-y-dorth, where he gave the earl of Warwick considerable trouble, and it was with difficulty the earl could prevent the total devastation of the country. He was unsuccessful at the battle of Usk, in which he lost 1500 of his men; and was still more unfortunate at the battle of Grosmont, where his army of 8000 men, commanded by his eldest son Griffith, were completely beaten, Griffith taken prisoner, and his uncle Tudor killed; this disaster greatly daunted the Welsh, who principally in Monmouthshire and Glamorgan submitted to the king; and in order to finish the rebellion, the king personally guided an army into the Marches, but storms and tempests frustrated him, so that what SHAKESPEARE put into Glendwr's mouth, appears to have some foundation in fact—

"Three times hath Henry Bolingbroke made head
"against my power---thrice, from banks of Wye
"and sandy bottom'd Severn, have I sent
"him bootless home, and weather-beaten back."

The king of France being insane, the duke of Orleans, as Regent, fulfilled the engagement to

Glendwr, and furnished him with 12,000 men, who landed at Milford, headed by Marshal de Rieux and Aubert de Hugueville; with these Glendwr acquired fresh vigor, and pushed on with devastation through Southern Wales unto Worcester, where the king in person opposed him at Woodbury-hill, and by preventing supplies and necessaries from reaching Owen, and other dexterous manœuvres, obliged the Frenchmen to retire into Wales, and finally to return to France. With the fortune of war, did his former adherents also forsake him; and though Glendwr was not entirely subdued, and frequently committed devastation, yet in the end he was obliged to secrete himself amongst the central mountains and fortresses, particularly Plinlimmon.

To revenge the turbulence of Glendwr, Henry enacted severe laws against the Welsh in general, and proceeded in such measures as would ultimately have exterminated the remains of manners and of men, or have sunk them into the most degraded abjects: but this malicious intention was frustrated by the death of the king; and his

son Henry V. of a more noble and generous disposition, sought only to conciliate the people by measures more likely to ensure success—to pardon Owen and his followers; but this scheme was interrupted by the death of that remarkable chieftain at his daughter's, where he had long lived in disguise.

Among the Welsh chiefs, Owen Glendwr is certainly one of the most singular, and however erroneous his views might have been, still we cannot but wish he had finished his life in a more respectable manner; if we consider his peculiar situation, we must admire his perseverance; and we are told his prudence was equally meritorious: his character was sufficient to close any engagement; and for enterprise and warlike bravery, he may rank in the first line: not only in the field was his bounty extended, but encouragement was held out to every one in the most liberal manner; the Bards were patronized by him, and revived those innocent means of handing to future fame the actions of the worthy, or stimulating ardor in the breast of the warrior by those ani-

mating effusions in which the Bards were so well skilled.

The Welsh have long been enthusiastic in their eulogies of this chief, and particularly at Machynlleth, where in 1402, the States of the Principality were assembled, and gave him the crown of Wales. In the outset of his career he was nearly assassinated by David Gam, of notoriety; but after imprisoning the transgressor for some time, he magnanimously pardoned him. For 15 years did Owen occupy the attention of Henry IV. and all the skill and courage of the prince, who, instead of detesting, seemed to venerate the prowess of his opponent, and on his accession to the throne was willing to negotiate with Glendwr, and eventually to have pardoned him and his adherents, had not the death of the chief prevented it. The same terms were offered to and accepted by his son Meredyth ap Owen; and unanimity was once more restored to the kingdom.

On leaving Usk, I beg to recommend to the traveller to pursue the road to Pontypool, which

is not only interesting by its diversity of picturesque scenery, but gratifying by a sight of its manufactory, for which the place is celebrated. Having appointed my late *guide* at Caerleon to meet me, I returned by that place, as I had entrusted him to negotiate the purchase of some ancient relics; finding by experience that far more advantageous terms could thus be made, than by my own personal application.

Ascending the hill to Christchurch, I was again requited by that delightful scene, which would

furnish everlasting entertainment to the eye without being wearied by a tedious sameness: on pursuing the same road, it receives an additional charm by the Usk stealing from the Bristol channel in innumerable windings up to Newport; where it is seen bathing the walls of its castle.

This place was, in the Welsh language, called *Guentluge*, and though it is not of large extent, contains several good houses, principally about the market-place; the main street is extremely steep, and the habitations on one side are considerably

elevated above the road, where the pavement is not only rough, but in many respects dangerous, continuing to St. Woolos church, on the top of the hill. The town has nothing peculiarly attractive in its appearance, by streets long, narrow, and dirty, yet its situation is in every respect suitable for convenience and traffic; it is about three miles from Caerleon, which originally was the principal resort; but falling into disrepute, and being higher up the river, the present town arose from its decay, and is denominated Newport in contradistinction to the old one. The river from hence to the channel is broad, deep, and safe; and with its windings is about seven miles.

It must of latter years have much increased, for LELAND describes it as a "town yn ruine," and mentions three gates as standing, of which two may now be seen, though none of the walls that once surrounded it can be discovered; this town was in early ages an appendage to the Lordship of Glamorgan, comprehending all the country which lay between the rivers Usk and

Neath; the bridge which has not been completed much more than a twelvemonth, is a plain but neat structure of five arches, and appears to be strong and durable, which the great torrents that in bad weather discharge themselves from the mountains into this stream, require it to be. Coal is remarkably plentiful, and good of its kind, and yields a considerable source of profit to the place, from the large quantities exported to Bristol and many other parts. In addition to coal, there is a great traffic for bar and pig iron, and all necessaries, furniture, groceries, &c. are here imported for the service of the surrounding country. Two vessels are regular in sailing for Bristol on Tuesdays, and return Thursdays or Fridays, and have generally a number of passengers who attend the markets with their various articles.

Newport is as yet reckoned only a creek of Cardiff, so that all entries inwards and outwards are included under that head, but it bids fair to rival all the neighbouring ports, and to become a place of some consequence; as a canal has

been completed for the more ready conveyance of the coal, iron, &c. from the mountains to the quays: to persons accustomed to the convenience of regular quays, Newport will appear contemptible, from the slovenly mode of loading and unloading upon stages which totter under the work; and the vessels are lying on the bank at once steep and filthy: it is to be hoped the spirit of enterprize will not rest with the completion of the canal, but contribute for the convenience of proper quays and safer births.

In the length of the canal from Cromlech to the bason at Newport, there is a fall of 624 feet of water, by 52 locks; and about three miles from Newport, a succession of 15 locks each into the other has a singular appearance, which causes a rising of 180 feet by the whole. The expectations of the town for an increasing business is so great, that they have it in contemplation to make a dram-road from the collieries and factories up the country to be contiguous to the canal, and carried a considerable distance from the present quays lower down the river, to

avoid the tedious windings of the stream and facilitate expedition, and to insure at all times a regular supply which might be prevented by the canal being frozen, or other casual impediments.

From the church yard may be seen an extensive and beautiful prospect, exhibiting most of the principal mountains in the county; the Sugar-Loaf beyond Abergavenny is very conspicuous, and Twm Barlwm and the Machen Hill shew their bleak summits: the eye wanders with delight over the extensive levels of Wentloog, part so thickly grouped with trees to resemble a wood, and rendered interesting by spires peeping above them, others representing marshes which appear to have suffered the evils of inundation from the neighbouring channel; and beyond the Severn to the high lands of Somersetshire and Glocestershire; in fine and clear weather this solemn repository of departed beings will not only afford suitable reflections, but give an exhibition of as beautiful and varied a natural picture as most eminences; nor does its peculiarity rest with its external views, as the interior exhibits fine spe-

cimens of Saxon architecture by its pillars, and numerous wreathings which richly decorated the arches.

The church is dedicated to St. Woolos, a saint of high honor with the early Welsh, and is reported to be the eldest son of a Dimetian king in South Wales, and married to a daughter of a Brecknockshire prince, by whom he had St. Kenna and the great St. Cadoc, founder of Llancarvan: for some time previous to his death he was exemplary in retirement, and rigorous in manner; his clothing was sackcloth, his food barley bread strewed with ashes, and his drink water; he rose to prayer at midnight, and subsisted by the labour of his hands; he died near the end of the fifth century, glorified by miracles*.

When the church was originally founded is uncertain, but the Saxon and Norman workmanship so plainly perceivable convince us of

* Lives of the Saints.

early date, but the tower was added to it by Henry III. in gratitude for signal services he received from the inhabitants, and the earl of Glocester (who was the possessor of the castle), in opposition to the rebels under the earl of Leicester; his statue was placed in the front, where it still is to be seen headless, having been thus mutilated by Cromwell's soldiers.

There is a tradition of a stream in the neighbourhood of Newport called Nant-Kentham, distinguished by the advantage king Henry II. derived from his freckled face when passing over it; it having been foretold by Merlin Sylvester that they should be conquered by a prince so marked by nature, and who would pass that ford; on this the Welsh submitted without offering the least resistance, judging that opposition would be violating the sacred tie which they ever felt themselves bound to, by the prophecies of old.

At one end of the bridge stand the remains of the ancient castle, erected by Martin, lord of

Cemais, and strengthened by the earl of Glocester and Bristol; excepting one part at the farthest end (which is inhabited by a poor family), the whole is now in ruins, and only serves as a safe retreat for those birds which seek for an undisturbed haunt.

It has been a strong building, though not very large, one side has its foot standing in the river, where it had an entrance under an arch guarded by a portcullis; over this was the principal room roofed with stone, and an octagon tower flanked the whole: the other three sides had a deep moat surrounding them of not less than 20 yards over; many parts of the building shewing the gothic style, and indicating it to have had additions during the Norman age, and in the several disturbances from the surrounding Welsh, was very serviceable to check their progress, or in whosever hands it was, to give a temporary security. Not far from it was an institution for Friar Preachers, and the house was granted by Henry VIII. in the 35th year of his reign, to Sir Edward Cam.

Maud, the eldest daughter of Robert Fitzhamon, among other possessions granted Newport to her husband, Robert earl of Glocester and Bristol, who by his skill in arms was the means of placing his nephew, Henry II. on the throne: there are undoubted proofs that previous to his time the castle was erected, and strongly garrisoned; at his death it became the property of the earl of Hertford by marriage: in 1313 it was, with the town, given to Margaret, who married Hugh de Audley, but her sister having married the renowned favourite of Edward II. Hugh le Despenser, she was obliged to surrender this part of her property, and he procured the inhabitants a charter of considerable privilege: on the downfall of that haughty minion, it was returned to De Audley, whose daughter marrying the earl of Stafford, a person greatly respected by Edward III. who, for eminent services performed at the celebrated battle of Cressy, was created earl of Hereford, (and it is worthy of remark, that Newport and Netherwent furnished sixty men with lances in that important conflict); his descendants

enjoyed the same until Edward, the third duke of Buckingham, was executed by order of Henry VIII. who seized it and sold the castle to the Herberts, of St. Julian's, from whom it descended to the Powis' family; it was afterwards purchased by Charles Van, Esq. of Lanwerne, but the castle is now in two distinct properties; the tower near the bridge and the manor of Newport are the property of the marquis of Worcester, and the remainder belongs to William Keymeys, Esq. of Mayndee.

Pursuing the left-hand road from St. Woolos church, Cardiff presents itself at the extremity of an exceeding pleasing and interesting ride of twelve miles. Between the third and fourth mile-stone, passing over the wooden-piered bridge that crosses the river Ebwy, an elegant mansion is observed: the grounds and plantations about it are extensive, and remarkably varied in the beauty of their scenery. The park, which is well stocked with deer, rises with graceful ascent, until it breaks into numerous eminences, pleasingly capped with fine timber, shading vestiges of ancient warfare,

intermixed with hanging woods, bewildering the eye in every fanciful pleasing variety.

A mountain stream meandering through the vale, and contributes to adorn the mansion by supplying the canal that flows near it.

Approaching an aged man who was at work on the road, whose appearance carried evidences of information, with manners softened by a former more elevated sphere of life, induced me to enquire of him the name of the place and proprietor: the sensations of his mind urged the hasty reply of, "Tredegar, the seat of Sir CHARLES MORGAN, "Bart." nor could he desist from making a declaration in his benefactor's praise, with a warmth that bespoke a flame of gratitude was kindled in his heart, which could only be extinguished by the close of his life. On my asking him if the house was not damp from the lowness of its situation, being so near the canal, his animation in an instant fled, and sorrowfully leaning on his spade, made no reply, but appeared lost in contemplation, or pensively reviewing the bounties

of its possessor: anxious to know the cause of this change, but unwilling to disturb the meditation of his mind, at length repeated the question; he preserved the same posture, with shaking his head, and after a lengthened pause, exclaimed the cruel prophecy, and said it had been foretold, Ruperra* would become a victim to the flames, and that Tredegar would find a watery grave, by being undermined by subterraneous springs: the former, added he, has been verified; and directing his eyes to the latter, they became too much dazzled by the rhetoric of his sensibility and gratitude to make any observation on it; but his tongue expressed its fears that such a fatality should happen, by which he should be denied offering those blessings to its possessor, which were the constant and only tribute he could pay for his beneficence.

Every eminence on this road unfolds an enlarged map of ocean, and a more extensive prospect of the level of Wentloog.

* Another house belonging to Sir CHARLES MORGAN, Bart.

The churches of Peterstone, St. Bride's, Marshfield, &c. with numerous white cottages, enliven and embellish the view; and the broad sheet of water as far as the eye can reach, seldom is without vessels of all descriptions gliding over it.

At five miles and a half is Castletown, a small but neat village; at seven and half, St. Melon's; and at the distance of three from Cardiff, we cross the bridge over the Romney, whose winding course divides the counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan. Of this bridge, the dilapidated state is sufficient to create fears in the timid breast, sufficient to render it an object of reparation, and sufficient inducement to any public spirit to enforce the Act of Parliament.

The entrance to the town of Cardiff is better and more pleasing than is customary with old towns. The building on the right assumes the air of monastic ruins, and has been the habitation of white friars. A considerable portion of the old walls are remaining, and also those which were added for the greater

strength and convenience of merlons or battlements, in the troublesome time of Charles I. Its shape was nearly square, and there seem to have been towers at each angle of the wall; a great part of Cock's Tower is now standing, beautifully arrayed in a rich drapery of ivy; the whole was surrounded by a deep ditch, part of which now is appropriated to the purposes of the canal.

The town itself is clean, well provided, and convenient, tolerably well built, and pleasantly situated in a flat fertile country. The town-hall has a respectable appearance when viewed on the front, and the broad open street facing, is where the markets are held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when every article in season may be abundantly procured, and tolerably reasonable.

Cardiff appears to be rising fast into consequence as a maritime port, from its canal, which is judiciously planned and well completed; the bason (as it is called) although not wider than would conveniently accommodate three large ships

abreast, yet from its length and depth, is capable of containing some hundreds, it being upwards of a mile in length, and increasing in width towards the sea-lock. Vessels come up close to the town to take or discharge their cargoes, without any regard to size or burthen, and are always afloat, to the great advantage of the merchant, and benefit of the place: the entrance chamber to it from the sea is sufficiently deep for the largest man of war, being carried down to the bed of the river (for the canal is considerably above the Taffe).

The whole length of the canal from Merthyr Tydfil is rather more than 25 miles, and the fall of water, from its head to the sea-lock, is 568 feet, five inches; its course almost surrounds the town, for, after leaving the bason, it is continued in the direction of the walls till it passes near the new bridge, and then follows pretty nearly the course of the Taffe: although it is not more than four feet deep at most, the barges carry from 15 to 20 tons, and one horse is generally found sufficient to haul them.

The walks, in fine weather, on the sides of the bason, are very pleasant, and present delightful prospects; and the high promontory, or head-land before you, is called Pen-narth: the church on the extreme top serves as a sea-mark; and the two islands directly in sight are the flat and steep Holmes: the flat, though apparently near you, is not less than nine miles distant—and between the two are three miles more. Should (which is often the case) a number of vessels be at anchor, waiting for a wind, the scene is truly grand; but at all times vessels are moving in some direction or other.

The river Taffe has amazingly altered its course of late years, and has approached the walls of the town: there are many persons who remember that the utmost strength of a man could not throw a stone from St. Mary's church yard into the river; yet such has been the fury of the stream, when swelled by mountain freshes, and the many water-courses which fall into it, that nearly the whole church yard is washed away, and discloses the graves of the buried; and bones of

every description are visibly sticking about the bank: this must be viewed with regret, to observe, the little attention paid by the living; a sacred charge due to the ashes of the dead. The foundations of several houses have been destroyed, and unless precautions are taken to preserve those now adjoining, they will, in all probability, share the like destruction. St. Mary's church, and many dwellings, were swept away by an uncommon and dreadfully destructive rise of the tide in the channel, in the year 1607, and have not since been rebuilt; so that although Cardiff has two parishes, there is but one church, called St. John's, a neat structure, having not an inelegant tower, which, though plain in itself, is well set off by the lightness and beauty of the pinnacles and battlements.

Cardiff was originally known by the name of Rhatostabius Ostium; and on the invasion of Britain by the Romans, their general, Aulus Didius, raised a fort, and garrisoned it, to keep the Silures in awe. From this circumstance the

Cambro Britons gave it the name of Caer-didi It next had its name from its situation on the Taffe, and was called Caer-taffe, Caerdaff, or Caerdiff; from whence it has corrupted to Cardiff. The date of its founding is said to have been in 1080, but it certainly must have been considerably earlier, from what is above related; and if reliance is to be placed on the Liber Landavensis now in Landaff Cathedral, it will be found that Meurich, king of Glamorgan (the father of the famous Arthur) was a native of Cardiff.

That, however, the town is ancient, and has been of moment to several monarchies, the castle and its appendages fully evince; and Justin ap Gurgan was the last Welsh prince who occupied it. It was rebuilt in the style and strength of a Norman fortress, by Robert earl of Glocester, in the reign of Henry I. In 1101, when the Montgomery family was in rebellion, headed by the earls of Shrewsbury and Pembroke, several occupiers of fortresses in the marches joined, and were suppressed by the above-named monarch; and the territory of Cardiff was given to Cadwgan,

but subject to Robert de Belmarsh, bishop of London, who was a warden of the marches.* In 1110, Robert Fitzhamon, after his conquest of Glamorganshire, divided the country among his twelve Norman knights, but reserved Cardiff to himself, which he enlarged and strengthened for his residence. It was soon after taken by one Ivor Bach, a Briton, who dwelt in the mountains: having marched here privately with his party in the night, he suddenly surprised the castle and carried away the earl of Glocester, (a grandson of Fitzhamon), with his wife and son, and detained them until he had received satisfaction for some injuries done him. In 1131, it was taken by Llewellyn's forces, under Melcolm and Rhys, and in 1233 by the earl of Pembroke for Henry III.

As the castle, &c, declared for Charles I. it was besieged by Oliver Cromwell in person, and, through the treachery of a deserter, it surrendered to him, but the rascal on applying for his reward, found Oliver sensible of the deserts due to a

* Welsh Chronicle.

dastard who abandons his cause; and though he benefited by the act, ordered him to be immediately hanged. The subterraneous passage into the garrison, by which this was effected, went under the Taffe, and a short time since, on the proprietor of the Inn called the Cardiff Arms, repairing or enlarging the cellar, the workmen fell into what is supposed to have been part of it.

It is not easy to form a correct idea of the original shape and figure of the main castle, since it has undergone considerable alteration, with an intent to make it a fashionable residence, but the additions are so little in unison with the old building, that its characteristic grandeur is lost in the design; the present heir to it being a minor, all reparation and improvements have been stopped until he shall be of age; and as the workmen left their labor, so to this moment it remains, all in dirt and confusion.

There are several pictures, but chiefly consisting of family portraits of the Windsor's, and

the unions by matrimonial alliances to the Mountstewart's; they are principally painted by Vandyke, Kneller, and Dahl; there is one in the breakfast parlour displays the powerful effect of light and shadow on the armour, so eminently distinguished by the former artist's pencil, and in the drawing-room are whole lengths of the marquis and marchioness of Bute, in which Romney has very happily harmonized his boldness of colouring, by uniting great affability with high dignity; there is also a piece representing the inside of the keep, painted by Ibbetson, which has claim to merit: in one of the rooms are shown three balls thrown by Cromwell's ordnance, two of them iron, the other stone, of about eighteen pounds weight; two were found in the keep, and the other on the green.

At one corner of the green, on an high mound of earth, are the remains of the keep, which is peculiarly attractive on passing the entrance gate; this building is of eleven sides, excluding the centre tower, which is octagon, and thick enough to

have a stair-case and communications with upper apartments for observation and conveniencies, the walls are said to be continued to the bottom of the mound, and are so extremely hard in the cement, more difficult to divide, than the stones, which are of all sizes: of this tower, it was the intention of the late marquis to have made a

large and elegant single room, with copper roof, and sky-light; the whole to have been well finished and fitted up.

An entrance tower to the castle still remains, but whatever we may admire in its structure, its history chills our approbation, and casts a sorrowful gloom on the mind; it is called the black tower, a

name most consonant to the inhuman stain it has endured, and which time can never wipe away, where, in a room barely 15 feet square, rather under ground, and with only a small crevice near the roof, was the unfortunate Robert, the eldest son of William the Conqueror, unjustly and cruelly confined for 26 years, by the power of his unnatural brother, Henry I. and it has been said, with every degree of severity, in addition to imprisonment.

Historians have endeavoured to mitigate the rigor of his imprisonment, and it has even been asserted by one, to be utterly impossible for any human being to have existed in the dungeon a twelvemonth; therefore, suppose him to have enjoyed the whole range of the building. Lord Lyttleton, quoting the authorities of Odo Vitalis, and William of Malmesbury, says, "Henry made "his imprisonment as easy to him as possible, "furnishing him with an elegant table, and "buffoons to divert him; pleasures which for "some years he had preferred to all the duties

" of sovereign power." Others relate, that on attempting to escape, the prince was blinded, by holding a hot brass bason so near his eyes, that the humours were dried up, and the optic nerves destroyed. Mathew Paris thus relates the cause of his death :

" It happened on a feast-day, that king Henry trying on a scarlet robe, " the hood of which being too streight, in essaying to put it on he tore one " of the stitches, whereupon he desired one of his attendants to carry it to " his brother, whose head was smaller; it having always been his custom, " whenever he had a new robe, to send one cut off from the same cloth to " his brother, with a polite message. This garment being delivered to " Robert, in putting it on he felt the fraction where the stitch had been " broken, and through the negligence of the taylor not mended; on asking " how that place came torn, he was told it was done by his brother, and " the whole story was related to him; whereupon falling into a violent " passion, he thus exclaimed: ' alas! alas! I have lived too long! behold ' my younger brother, a lazy clerk, who has supplanted me in my king- ' dom, imprisoned, and blinded me! I who have been so famous in arms! ' and now, not content with these injuries, he insults me as if I were a ' beggar, sending me his cast-off clothes, as for alms!' from that time " he refused to take any nourishment, and miserably weeping and la- " menting, starved himself to death: he was buried in Glocester cathedral, " where his image as big as life, carved in Irish oak, and painted, is " yet shewn."

Contiguous is the guard room, where the eye of watchfulness was never closed, and above were

the apartments for attendants, store rooms, and observations: from this tower, to the keep on the mound, was a strong and thick wall, which, on pulling down, and destroying the foundation, was at the bottom discovered to have had a secret passage along the middle of it, with flood-hatches and drop-gates: supposed to have been a way for sallying, or procuring forage. The whole of the surrounding walls and battlements have been repaired, and the walks are kept in clean order, and afford to the inhabitants of Cardiff an excellent promenade, exhibiting a beautiful and diversified view in every direction; and from the eminence at one corner, a rich and charming scene of the channel and surrounding country is presented; the walks are open, and at all hours free to any one.

Caerphilly is from Cardiff rather more than seven miles; at two from whence you keep to the right through newly-enclosed grounds, and on ascending Thorn Hill, a beautiful view of the country you have passed and a wide extended landscape, with an expanse of water, enrich the

picture. The most remarkable peculiarity of Wales is the universal practice of whitening all their houses, nor is there any difference in this respect between the villa and the cottage: hence arises that lively sensation we experience in viewing any extent of prospect, and the neat display of the natural beauty of the country.

In a fine clear morning, Cardiff appears to more advantage from hence, than elsewhere; and the castle, with its ivy'd walls, forms an interesting object. Landaff also contributes to embellish the scene, and the circumstance of the houses being exalted above the cathedral, is not only observable but a pleasing contrast.

Proceeding onward, the fancy is led to suppose itself enclosed by mountains, (which is the fact in some degree) from whence occasional opportunities occur from partial openings, of surveying splendid nature, gladdened by the gifts of Providence in every animated form; nor are these huge ridges which I was passing, useless to mankind; for their bowels are stored with treasure,

and industry was exerting her efforts to attain it; the collieries around were giving up the stores to numerous applicants, and rendered this (otherwise lonely) tract lively and amusing. After ascending two or three more hills, Caerphilly's ponderous remains appear in the bottom, and its dark colour, strongly contrasted with the adjoining white dwellings, causes sensations of delight, but more of astonishment.

It is almost unaccountable, that a fortress, which for size, strength, and compactness, whose ruins even now discover it to have had elegance united with utility, and no doubt can be entertained but it has borne the brunt of many a storm, and a great share in the broils and troubles of the principality, as well as the affairs of the kingdom in general, should have so few records of its events, or who were its possessors; in this we are embarrassed by difficulty, and perplexed by uncertainty, and the inquisitive beholder cannot but be astonished at the little information to be obtained of the remains of a pile he cannot look on without surprise, nor contemplate without awe. It has

been thought to have derived its origin from the Britons, and afterwards to have been used as a garrison by the Romans; founded by Beli Gawr, a king of Britain, and brother to the Gaulish general Brennus, near 400 years previous to the birth of Christ; but all this conjecture must be vague and undeterminate, for no history can furnish any real information of its founder, or the time of its founding: there have been stories in circulation of its having been possessed by Julius Cæsar, and also that he caused it to be the residence of his daughter, to preserve her morals from being contaminated by the ill examples of his wife, but a slight consideration will confute any such relation; for it is well known, that Julius was never in this part of the country, nor were the Welsh ever subdued till Ostorius's time, nor in complete subjection until Agricola; therefore it is highly improbable that Julius Cæsar should trust his daughter in an enemy's country, and such inveterate ones as the Welsh were. It has borne various turns of fortune, according to the success or defeat of the parties engaged, and ere gunpowder was invented, must

have easily withstood the shocks of warfare for ages, and, while provisions could be kept within, would render abortive all attacks without. When possessed by the turbulent Welsh, it was a considerable impediment to the British, and as often as it could by them be obtained, was held as a check on the Cambrians.

The whole building, and erections belonging, is said to have been two miles in circumference, with thirteen draw-bridges, where indications of them may be observed on the north and west, and a wall with inverted arches is peculiarly attractive. A round tower was at each angle, and the one at N. N. W. point is singularly beautiful, and demands particular attention for its deep incrustation of ivy, and being separated down the middle, where it exhibits the four stories which communicated by galleries.

The grand hall was 70 feet by 30, and 17 feet in height, supported by 20 arches; two noble windows from the ground reached the cieling of the room, ornamented with leaves and busts,

with fruit like balls; the fire-place is near nine feet wide, and high in proportion; on one side of this hall are seven clusters of round pillars, and each cluster has three busts to support them: at the east end are door-ways eight feet high, leading to a yard of 70 yards by 40, and nearly in the middle was a well. The whole of the interior buildings was surrounded by a wall of considerable height, and remarkable thickness, with buttresses and square towers, all connected by a gallery, and above it was a walk, and a secret communication contrived within a wall, where only one person could go abreast: at the eastern end is the gateway, which contains three grooves for portcullises; the mill was between the outer wall and the moat, and on the west side of the stairs is a low round place called the mint house, supported by three pointed arches.

Of the whole ruins, extensive and cumbrous as they are, there is no part so truly remarkable as the leaning tower; when we contemplate its wonderful situation, or by what means it became so, it makes the mind lose itself in discussing,

and fluctuate in conjecture, as the top reclines

eleven feet and a half over the base: the apparent weakness of its support, and that so mutilated, with the menacing attitude it assumes, threatening immediate destruction to whoever should approach it, render it an object of inconceiveable interest, and is allowed nearly, if not equally, as great a curiosity as the celebrated leaning tower of Pisa, in Italy: this extraordinary object is divided into two separate parts, from the top nearly to the middle, in such manner that each

side hangs over, and the fissure is so wide, that I walked easily through it. Having been informed that the best mode of observing the effect of this astonishing pile was to lay flat on the back close to its base, I was induced to try, and it surpassed my expectation in grandeur and delight, until terror interrupted, and prompted me to rise in much less time than was taken to place myself in the position, nor did I recover the sensation, until I was well out of its reach.

In the opinion of several persons of judgment, who have compared it with other castles, this fortress is supposed to have been the largest in the kingdom, excepting Windsor, and from its vast magnitude and admirable structure, has been affirmed by many to have been a Roman garrison: that there might have been a castle on the spot is not unlikely, but there are no marks remaining, nor have coins or other articles been found to ascertain the certainty; it may be remarked, that on all places known to be Roman, numberless fragments of their labour were accustomed to be stamped with some peculiar mark to

denote the constructor, nor were medals ever omitted to be strewed or deposited by them; but nothing of this kind, nor even the smallest vestige of an implement or utensil has been hitherto found, belonging to that nation. I shall not enter so deeply into the subject as to controvert the different opinions of others, or substitute ideas of my own: the ruins themselves will declare an early time, whether considered as the remains of the original, or the splendid addition to an older fabric. The earliest accounts I could find, began with Gryffyth ap Ivor ap Meurig, lord of Senghennyth (the present Caerphilly); he was one of the chiefs who attended Henry II. in council, to restore peace in the Marches. In the reign of John, when Llewellyn had caused a revolt, and was excommunicated by the Pope, he endeavoured to retain the interest of Reginald de Bruce, by giving his daughter into the family, and assigning to her husband the important fortress of Senghenayth, now Caerphilly.

When Henry III. ascended the throne, Reginald de Bruce returned to his allegiance, and

Llewellyn immediately assaulted Brecknock, the principal town of his lordship; but by artful contrivance and dissimulation, Reginald persuaded Llewellyn to raise the siege of Brecknock, and restore to his family Senghennyth, or Caerphilly.

Some historians relate, that when the barons and the king made peace, the Welsh princes were excluded, and afterwards perfidiously turned their arms against them; the earl of Pembroke violently acted in this underhand business, and made dreadful devastation in the Marches, but Rhys Vychan besieged, took, and destroyed the important fortress of Caerphilly, which had an English garrison, and also other fortresses; in fine, he compelled the enemy to retreat, and regulated the Cambrians so as to defend their territories.

Caerphilly became under the influence of the earl of Clare, by marrying his daughter to Rhys Gryg, a chieftain of great consequence, who chiefly resided there as the principal barrier of Cambria, since the destruction of Caerleon, and

from the stations of Red Castle, Thornhill, and Tyn Barlwn, was strongly secured.

After the death of Llewellyn, and the conquest of Wales by Edward I. Rhys submitted to the English power; and Caerphilly, or Senghennyth, with all the hill fortresses, were delivered up to the earl of Glocester: Edward afterward visited the various fortresses, and particularly ordered Cardiff and Caerphilly to be repaired, strengthened, and beautified.

In the unfortunate reign of Edward II. the Spencers having become the favourites of the monarch; the king, the queen, and the barons were at variance, and commotions were the consequence; Hugolin Spencer was for a long time besieged in Caerphilly castle, which at length surrendered to the queen, and the infamous Mortimer.

In Glendwr's rebellion, Henry IV. confided the castle of Caerphilly to Constantia, lady Despenser; this lady was afterwards concerned

in the plot of endeavouring to raise her brother, the duke of York, to the throne, and is said to have concerted measures with Glendwr, who was to have taken charge of the earl of March, and the duke, if she could effect their escape from captivity at Windsor; she did procure their release, but, on their way to Caerphilly, were, with herself, retaken; however, she obtained a pardon, and was reinstated at this fortress.

While I was rambling over this interesting pile, and prying with delight into every part accessible to the foot of inquisitive research, a person of the place approached, who, after the usual salutations, soon betrayed his province was to *instruct*, and though it was *youth*, still, information from a man of *letters* could not be refused; nor can I deny myself the satisfaction of verbally detailing what contained so much national preference: 'This castle, 'Sir, is the oldest in the kingdom, and cer- 'tainly the most respectable, for elegance, 'extent, and fame in history; various have 'been the opinions of its etymology, but this,

'Sir, may be depended upon; on Julius Cæsar making an attack on this fabric, he found it irresistible, and impossible to acquire it by dint of scientific warfare, he therefore sought other means, and offered terms of capitulation to its brave defenders, which was conditionally agreed to, but the Welsh regarding the loss of their native language more than the loss of the castle, consented to its surrender, provided the name whereby it was in future to be called, should be half in Welsh and half in the language of its conqueror, but, with a reserved precedence of applying the first word to it; this being assented to, the Welsh named *Caer*, signifying a castle; and Julius Cæsar, desirous of making it the residence of his daughter, in compliment to her, named it *filia*.' However improbable was the story, the gravity with which it was told would have induced the smile which had been collecting in the detail, to have burst into a laugh, had not the fear of distressing the feelings of another forbidden it.

At length I was warned to depart, by the sun taking its diurnal farewell, and retiring behind the mountains, leaving only the tinges of its golden rays to signify the approach of eve, and threaten to fold me in its ebon shade: thus was reluctantly compelled to hasten by the road I came in the morning, to place myself under the comfortable roof of Mrs. THOMAS, at the Cardiff Arms, an Inn possessing more attention and real comfort than any other place of public accommodation I ever met with.

The dazzling majesty of the morning sun peeping in my window, not only tempted me to rise, and reproached my slumbers, but induced me to take an earlier farewell of my hostess than I otherwise intended.

Pursuing the road over a neat bridge of five arches, and taking the first turning on the right hand, at the distance of two miles reached Landaff; a large forsaken mansion on the right throws a gloom on the fancy, by exhibiting

the sorrowful representation of grandeur in disguise, but on the left the country assumes a distinguished contrast, by the decorations of the hills, where patches of firs are so tastefully disposed, as to convey the characters of elegance and prosperity; the ivy-mantled walls of the episcopal castle, desolated, and in ruins, now approaches to view, and gives a pleasing, though mournful effect; particularly the striking remnant of its large window.

Urbanus the 30th, bishop of the see, in 1120, is supposed to have been the founder, at the same time he greatly enlarged the church; but of this, no other authority is stated than what might be grounded from a relation of bishop Godwin's, in respect of Landaff; "the "archbishop (of Canterbury), the rather to "draw on the liberality of men in contributing "toward the building of the church, took upon "him to release a fourth part of all penance "inflicted, unto such as should bestow any "thing towards the same; by this means (no "doubt) having gathered great summes of mo-

" ney, he began the building of that church,
" which now standeth, April 14th, 1120, and
" having finished it, built anew also all the
" houses belonging to it;" from whence it may be presumed, the palace was included: and Mr. WOOTTON, who is extremely copious in his account, also particularly says, that Urban built anew all the houses belonging to the church, " for himself and canons," and describes the demolition as follows: " the
" bishop's castle stood, before it was demolished,
" south-east of the church: it was heretofore
" a very stately building, if we may judge by
" the gate-house, which is still remaining.
" It was destroyed by Owen Glendwr, (or
" Glyndwrdwy) who made great devastation
" in this county, as well as in North Wales,
" when he rose in arms against Henry IV.
" there is a very high, thick, stone wall still
" standing, which, probably, enclosed the cas-
" tle, and the outhouses that belonged to it:
" the scite of the castle is now turned into
" a garden, which now belongs to THOMAS

" MATTHEW, Esq. of the court of Landaff, " (a house so called just adjoining) who is " tenant to a descendant of the house of " Arader, in Ireland; which family have been " in possession of that which was once the " episcopal house, and the grounds thereunto " adjoining, for some ages." There are no accounts that it was ever rebuilt since that destruction, and Godwin, so long back as 1601, said, " that the episcopal palace at Ma- " therne, (*vide* page 11) was the only house " left for the bishop to put his head in."

Descending a steep declivity, into a quiet and peaceful vale, came to the interesting and beautiful remains of its ecclesiastical pile:

" ———— the pious work
" of names once famed, now dubious or forgot,
" and partly buried midst the wreck of things."

The embellishments bring to light much history of its ancient fame, and the pleasure in beholding a religious pile, though even in ruins, cannot but inspire the mind to the most

moral reflections, and awaken sentiments of serious awe:

> The best concerted schemes men lay for fame
> die fast away ——————
> ——————— Oh! lamentable sight! at once
> the labour of whole ages, lumber down
> a hideous and mis-shapen length of ruins.
> Sepulchral columns wrestle but in vain
> with all-subduing time.

A finer remnant of Saxon architecture can

no where be seen than in the south entrance, demanding attention not only for bespeaking the æra of construction, the elegance of orders, and the graceful decorations of ivy planted by the hand of nature. On the north is a similar entrance, but divested of those pleasing vernal appendages, and all the walls unite ornamented neatness to solidity of masonry. The western entrance particularly

claimed my attention, by the rich display of beautiful gothic, in all the tastiness of its construction; the mouldings of the arches, and light stone pillars, which once constituted the division of its windows, were beautifully entwined by ivy in every fanciful direction, and variety of unstudied elegance: over a large door, in the centre of this structure, is the representation of a bishop in his pontifical habit, which, by some, has been supposed to be Urban, who lived in the reign of Henry I. and built the church, but is considered by the best-informed, to be intended for St. Dubritius, who was the first bishop of the see. Over the door are three long windows, the centre twenty feet high and four feet broad, and those on each side are sixteen by three; above them are seven niches, the middle being the longest, and the only open one; the remainder diminishing in regular lengths; above them in a recess, is a statue, considered to be designed for Henry I. the reigning prince, and the whole capped with an ornamental cross. This front was supported by a tower at each end; the one (now

only left in the record of history) was called the old tower, and taken down in consequence of great damage it sustained by a storm in 1703; it contained one large bell, which was exchanged at Exeter for five smaller ones, and were hung in the present tower.

The tower on the north side was also taken down, and supplied by the present edifice, built by Jasper, duke of Bedford, in the reign of Henry VII. and retains the name of that nobleman: it had pinnacles and battlements, which were destroyed by a storm.

On descending a few steps from the west, the area of the building, not occupied by the modern edifice, was strewed with the elegant fragments of pillars, and its walls pleasingly diversified with spontaneous shrubs; it is now without any sepulchral records; and two effigies in alabaster, which display much ability of the artist, (supposed to be Italians, patronized by King Henry VIII.) are removed from thence, and placed erect in the old chapter room.

Here I must beg leave to break off, and seriously lament that the history of Landaff is so difficult of access; and indeed only to be found in that now very scarce and almost out-of-print record, compiled by Mr. Browne Willis. Fearful of it being totally lost, and desirous of restoring the interesting circumstance of the remains of those which are deposited, with many observations totally obscured, to the remembrance or tradition of the place; with this intent I shall avail myself of that gentleman's known genius and authority, by adding it as an appendix, trusting the interesting extract will be rewarded by the approbation of my reader: but, previous to entering the present structure, I shall give what little account I could collect of the original edifice.

Of the antiquity of the church, it is reported to have been first built by king Lucius, about the year of Christ, 180, though no account of bishops previous to St. Dubritius;

and indeed it is probable he had no predecessors, because the memory of his successors is so carefully preserved, and the chronology of the early times are very uncertain, insomuch that several accounts contradict each other; some fixing Dubritius to have been instated to the see by St. Germanus and St. Lupus, two French bishops, in 436, who came over to extinguish the Pelagian heresy, and constituted him metropolitan of all these parts, of which he sometimes sat at Caerleon, and sometimes at Landaff. Others inform us, he was not appointed metropolitan till the year 490, at which time he was preferred from Landaff, to succeed Threminius in that dignity at Caerleon, by the nomination of Aurelius Ambrosius, one of the last British Kings; and being in possession of both these sees, he held them in *commendam* till the year 512, and then resigned Landaff to his disciple, St. Teleiau, who had been instructed by him, together with St. David, at a place called Kentland, near Ross, in Herefordshire.

St. Dubritius is reported to have lived to a great age, and to have been a bishop above 80 years, and that in 519 having resigned his archbishopric of Caerleon to St. David, he retired from the world, and after some years spent in solitude, departed this life at an island called Enlhie, (now Bardsey) on the coast of Caernarvonshire, November 14, 522, from whence his bones were translated to Landaff, by Urban, the 30th bishop of this see, May 7, 1120, and laid before the high altar.

During the times of the three first bishops, so much riches had been bestowed on this see, that if it now enjoyed the tenth part of that which it has been endowed with, it would be one of the wealthiest churches in Christendom; though now it is said to be barely sufficient to repair itself, and that divers benefices in the diocese yield more profit to their incumbents, than the present bishop receives.

When Urban was consecrated, he found his bishopric in a very poor and miserable condi-

tion; the church ruined, and almost to the ground, the revenues so confiscated, that out of 24 canons, they could scarcely maintain two; wherefore, explaining to the king and pope, he obtained a remedy, by procuring letters to the clergy and gentry of the kingdom, and thus gathered great sums; he pulled down the old church, which was but 28 feet long, 15 broad, and 20 in heighth, and began in 1120, the fabric (of which part of the ruins now remains), and dedicated it to St. Peter, St. Dubritius, St. Teleiau, and St. Oudoceus; a work truly magnificent, and to be remembered with honour by posterity; and in addition to this magnificence, built also the houses for himself and canons; after which he proceeded to recover the lands which had been alienated from the see, and the jurisdiction of places some neighbouring bishops had usurped; but in following those pursuits, he died on a journey to Rome, in the year 1133.

It seems, some of them were seized by the Normans, 1091, and notwithstanding Urban's

endeavours, this see hath never recovered itself; and bishop Kitchen, in the reign of Henry VIII. greatly impoverished it, by setting or leasing out on long leases, almost all the lands belonging to it, insomuch as to have nearly ruined it; and bishop Blethen is stated to have still more lessened its revenues, in order to provide for his children, by selling and alienating lands belonging to it: and in Cromwell's rebellion, more lands were sold, for the sum of 3775*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* besides material injury being done to the edifice by the contending parties.

On the death of the organist, in 1692, the choir service was put down, and has been discontinued ever since; and in 1705, or 1706, the roof fell in, and thus despoiled us of the original beauty this edifice, no doubt, was replete with: to this church there was a library, which, in all probability, contained valuable records, but in the civil wars was dispersed by the rebels, and, according to Browne Willis, part of it burned, with a number of Common Prayer Books, at Cardiff, whither the cavaliers of the

country, and the wives of several clergymen, were invited to the castle, on a cold winter's day, to warm themselves by the fire, which was then made of the books.

The sequestered and delightful situation of the church is well calculated to inspire devotion, and rendered truly sublime, by being enclosed within the walls of the ancient structure, composed of the elegant and ornamented fragments of the former architecture: never did I witness an edifice kept in such an uniform, praise-worthy, and commendable neatness; and was it possible to increase the praise of its respectable and venerable residentiary, it would be added on this occasion.

We enter this solemn pile by ascending a few steps out of the ruins of the old one, when its lightness, plainness, and somewhat remarkable singularity, must be striking to every one. We are not here, as in other buildings of this kind, attracted by a multiplicity of columns, or bewildered by the profusion of

ornament, or numerous monumental records of departed mortals; there are but few, and those must be carefully searched for. The choir is enclosed, and occupies the space of the great aisle, containing 12 stalls, with the addition of thrones for the bishop and archdeacon; two pulpits, one of them decorated with mitres, in which the bishop preaches, and the altar is raised on five steps, over which is the representation of a temple, supported by pillars. The choir, though rather unbecomingly heavy in its ornaments, is singularly pleasing for the assistance it gives to the voice, rendering the modulations so musically distinct.

I now went to the west end of the north aisle, by observing several ancient and curious monuments, but containing very few scriptral memorials: a flat stone first presents itself, now without any inscription, which, perhaps, was obliterated by the frequent research of grateful memory: another in this humble posture, and presumed (by the emblems on it) to be the safeguard of the deposited remains

of episcopal dignity. Two effigies on a raised pedestal, in pontifical habits, are recording the memories of St. Dubritius, and bishop Brumfield, with the pastoral staff, mitres, &c. Of the first, there is scarce any further knowledge, than, that being bishop of this see, and living to a great age, he resigned his dignity to St. Teleiau, anno 512, after enjoying the same above 80 years; he died at Bardsey, in 522, and his bones were translated here by Urban, on his repairing this edifice. Bishop Brumfield, *S. T. P.* a monk of *St. Edmondsbury*, abbot of the monastery of *Silva Major*, in the diocese of *Bourdeaux*, and master of the divinity school in the pope's palace, a very learned man, though of a pragmatical humour, obtained this see by papal provision, and received the temporalities on December the 17th, 1389; after he had scarce enjoyed it two years, he died, anno 1391, and was buried in his own cathedral. Above this tomb is a sculpture in relievo, affixed to the wall, representing the crucifixion, with all the instruments employed on that solemn occasion, emblematical of the faith in

which these persons died: there is something so striking, as well as singular, in the device, as naturally to fix our thoughts to the grand subject it displays; nor can our adoration be raised too high, when we consider the cause, the scheme, and the effects, of that meritorious proof of divine charity: a serious contemplation on every one single article here exhibited, must lead the mind to devotion, and endeavour to establish maxims of morality never to be swerved from during our existence in this sublunary state; impressed for ever should these mementos be upon the heart, guarding it from temptation, and inferior delight of worldly enjoyments; then might we be better enabled to meet the irrevocable decree passed on us, and fasten with more certainty on that hope, which alone can cheer us in the great conflict of nature.

On the opposite side, in a gothic niched recess in the wall, is the effigy of bishop Davies, *S. T. P.* in his episcopal robes, who had been archdeacon of the church, and elected to this

see July 29, 1667, confirmed the 23d, and consecrated the 24th of *August*; he died, *March* 14, 1674, and was buried in this cathedral: he founded a library here, and presented it with many of the fathers, from the second to the eighth century, and several other works; above this are also emblems of crucifixion in a shield: beyond these, in another recess of the same form, is the figure of a skeleton, done upwards of 500 years since, and designed to perpetuate the memory of an unfortunate female, who pined herself away, and fell a victim to that passion nature gifted to render mortals most happy; poor neglected girl!! this monument is artfully contrived to awaken sensibility, by the forcible manner it displays itself, not boldly discovering the whole formation at once, but ingeniously withdrawing a part of the shroud, and disclosing only sufficient to shew of what nature and transformation the departed being is become. No longer the blooming object which created pleasure not only to those around, but in remembrance of the distant; could ye now emerge from the enclosing tomb, what

awe wouldst thou inspire to those who once neglected thee! thy delicacy, which could not bind on earth, would rivet with unutterable surprise, in your exchanged form! disengaged from all attachment, ye could now give instructive lessons of the instability of earthly beauty, and moderate the impulse of mankind, to acquire charms, lasting only with existence, mortify the appetite for conceived personal elegance, and shew how corroding is the covering of death. Ambition here may learn, how vain and unstable are all the acquirements of wealth, grandeur, and fame: this, the return for thy adoring heart, from the faithless or impenetrable object of thy misplaced affection, whose inhumanity hath forced thee to the bitterness of death, in the bitterest shape!! and ignorance, or insensibility, consigned to the tomb, youth, beauty, and affection! Look on this, ye survivors, nor add more trophies of dissembling or carelessness: this is a monument for the gay and thoughtless, the healthful and strong, an exchange for what was amiable and lovely, inviting, and endearing; go, disappointed

virgin, and though thy sun of life was clouded by affliction, receive that rest appointed for the virtuous, and enjoy felicity superior to thy desires, and lasting as eternity.

On the same side, raised on a high, ornamented tomb, is represented a knight in armour, with his head resting on an open helmet, crested with a headless bird, his feet resting on a crouching lion; the whole in alabaster, displaying a good specimen of sculpture, to commemorate Christopher Matthews, a character distinguished by his illustrious acts of valour, and amazing strength; he was in stature six feet two inches high, and was killed in the civil wars.

In a recess opposite, are two figures, considered to be David Matthews and wife; he is represented in armour, and his lady by his side, both in alabaster; these effigies, and the ornaments about them, display great taste in the execution, and are remarkable for the delicacy and elegance with which the female drapery is

delineated: beneath, them is an inscription in ancient characters.

Passing through a small chapel, at the east end, divided by the altar of the choir, which breadth this chapel occupies, (and is appropriated to the performance of service in Welsh); here are deposited the remains of bishop John de Monmouth, doctor in divinity, chancellor of *Oxford*, prebendary of *Milton*, in the church of *Lincoln*, nominated to this see in *March*, 1294; though, on account of the death of the pope, he did not receive consecration until *February* 10, 1296, after which he had the temporalities restored him *April* 4th following; he was a great benefactor to his church, and in all respects a good governor thereof, as may be seen in *Fuller's Worthies in Monmouthshire*, where he was born in the town of *Monmouth*, and so surnamed; he procured the parsonage of *Newland*, in the county of *Glocester*, which one of his predecessors obtained from the bishopric of *Hereford*, to be appropriated to his see, and did several other good acts; he died on the 8th of

April, 1323, which was recorded in a French inscription, long since worn out and defaced.

At the north-east corner of the south aisle, in a recess, is a monument to Christiana Audley, a character distinguished not only for her bequest of the great and little heaths to the poor of Landaff, Roach, and Whitechurch, but for a valuable life; it presents proofs of the ability of the artist, by the superior workmanship which adorns it, exhibited in alabaster, whose spotless white tints the innocence of her life, and seems to exhibit an emblematical trait of the character it commemorates; the surface smooth, as was her amiable disposition, without ostentation, yet fully grand, displaying those lustres herself exhibited; but when monumental records are mouldering to the dust, thy memory will live in the grateful hearts of those who feel the value of thy generous donations; actions which require no other mode of information to posterity, than in the persons who realize the benefits thereof: beyond them, lie bishop Pascal, who died October 11, 1361, at

his episcopal palace, at Bishton; and William de Breuse, consecrated 1265, and died March 19, 1286—7 following; these are very humble stones, with inscriptions so defaced as to be scarcely legible; no cost, or expensive decoration, added to tell survivors any thing beyond mediocrity, and that so worn, perhaps by frequent resort of affection or tenderness, as to make the stone appear unfaithful of retaining its charge; no doubt they have most frequently enlivened the associated circle, and gladdened the hearts of the more unhappy, sacrificed their wishes to the good of others, and eloquently pourtrayed the charming counsels of the virtuous, to the growing generation set forth the example of piety, beneficence, and worth. Here are all which can now be known; and may their merits have been sufficient to waft their souls to happiness unsullied, and joys unspeakable.

The old chapter-room exhibits interesting antiquity in its construction, being supported by only one pillar in the centre, with springing

gothic arches; in it are the two monuments before spoken of, brought from the west entrance, of Sir William Matthews and his lady.

After having had all the monuments pointed out to me, I was desirous of inspecting them more accurately; my guide being under the necessity of attending to his own avocation, left me; pleased with the idea of spending a few moments under its sacred roof, I locked myself in, to indulge the meditations so mournfully pleasing to a sorrowful mind: never had I been in a situation so awfully retired, which gave every object a grave and serious air; the profound silence that reigned, added solemnity to the scene, and inspired a religious dread, while wandering over the hallowed spot strewed with the departed, gave, though a silent, a solemn admonition.

It were wise to be frequent in such situations as would turn our attention from the multiplicity of frivolous objects with which we are surrounded, to contemplate our more im-

portant state as regarding a future existence; neither would it betray a disposition to be deemed austere, by encouraging thoughts of so momentous a change as we are certain at one time or other we must undergo. Placed, as I was, amidst the relics of departed beings, and susceptible of their eloquent (though inactive) instructions, I more deeply felt the insignificance of my present state, if viewed only in an earthly light; convinced by those around, how transitory, weak, and futile, were all attempts to attain a lasting satisfaction in our present sphere, or by the work of our own hands to gain a solidness of glory without decay.

By retirement from the noise of the busy throng (and that often is the only mode to set us right in our imaginations, and to restrain evils which pour upon us in every direction, and from every circumstance) we should be roused from the slumber of carelessness, and invigorated to an exertion for the attainment of superior qualifications, and open

to ourselves an understanding to guide us in a path leading to a life unfading and unspotted. Existence can be only delightful so far as we are satisfied: how wretched then must that mortal be who trusts only to the fleeting enjoyments of the moment, when he considers, that with them he must perish; with them be soon in oblivion? For those reasons it behoves us to turn our ideas to scenes like these surrounding me, and listen to the sentiments they so forcibly dispense to an attentive observer; telling us, in language too plain to be misunderstood, to conduct ourselves in such manner, and to value our acquisitions, as the better enabling us to perform our respective parts with that propriety, as to look with pleasure on our past hours, and with tranquil ease, to reflect on those moments which are to convey us to another and unceasing existence.

On one side of me, I perceived in similitude an emblem of corruption,* a picture of faded

* The skeleton.

mortality, an end of fancied pleasure; proving the liability of our destruction, even from the want of fulfilling our imaginary satisfactions: distended, motionless, and incapable of perception; no faculty of power remaining; a semblance of utter destruction. Could this be the intent of our sojourning here? Could this be the desire of our Creator — the finish to his performance? The resemblance* at once denies it, and shew us that we are valuable in estimation, and the proud production for superior advancement; and to accomplish the important task of raising our frail bodies to invaluable glory, was the still more glorious condescension of his unspeakable beneficence, whose sufferings none can tell; and

"If Angels tremble, 'tis at such a sight;"

A sight which must awaken all our horrors for the circumstances which occasioned it, and gratitude for the reinstatement of our favour, by the strict observance of the duties to acquire it; never could our consequence be more plainly

* The trophies of the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ.

set forth than by the affection shewn to preserve us; a proof of future honours for which we are now only to prepare, and the forfeiture of them so great an injury to ourselves as nothing could restore, but the agonies of an ignominious death of even the Lord of our life: with what veneration then ought we not to contemplate this subject, and bow with humble adoration for the means opened, and the advantages offered unto us by such a wonderful instance of favour and charity! how insignificant are we, taken as a worldly object, how poor and contemptible are our efforts or power, how mean and abject our pretensions, how divested of qualification to presume on our own sufficiency to procure a share of felicity, when nothing less than so astonishing an atonement should be able to give us any prospect of a release from those chains our perverseness had rivetted! But whilst we are attracted by the gaieties of the world, and the allurements of amusements and dissipation, we can neither form our minds, or allow the thought of a future state, in any forcible degree, to withdraw

the attentions from the infatuating principle which we so falsely call pleasure; but should any private or domestic distress happen within the pale of our concerns, for a moment it creates a sensation of apprehensions, and confuses our ideas rather than lessens the calamity; and with returning quietness so also returns that exclusion of moral sentiments so highly prejudicial to the well regulating of our manners; but even should affliction hold with constant grasp on our frame, still the mind, by its susceptibility of uneasiness, is rendered unfit for a proper meditation on so sublime a theme; how careful then should we be occasionally to throw off the attire of mortality, and whilst in the enjoyment of all our faculties, turn to the repository of the dead, and hold converse with corruption; of such importance is it, that it cannot fail of giving us a true portrait of ourselves, and of the vanity of other pursuits which do not tend to the promoting not only our welfare in this, but superlative blessings, lasting as glorious in the future translation: it will teach us that, perishing as our frames appear,

there is yet a way whereby to attain, and a hold whereby to fix, which will never desert us, but joyfully present as a testimony of love which cannot be refused, and of mercy which cannot be overthrown, all this procured by that inestimable sacrifice, (which is now represented before me), by which the redemption of fallen man is procured—and eternal pardon sealed to those who profess with undeviating faith the merits of the intercession, and reliance on the power of that blood shed so profusely for our iniquities; a stain not greater than could be obliterated, but too great to be otherwise cleansed than by the means taken so beneficently for us. May this impressive matter be so affixed to my heart, that my future endeavours shall be only such as will more closely confirm the maxims set for us to follow, to acquire that profusion of blessing promised only to the deserving! And oh ye sacred remnants of departed popularity, over whose bones I now tread, may your convincing arguments strike deep to my heart, and be the cause of more frequent visits to similar companions, from whom

lessons of wisdom are numerous, and the truths ye display unanswerable! Let it be the happiest moment of my life that hearkened to the instructions ye gave, and be proved by the constancy of my endeavours to retain the principles imbibed, till that dread moment shall arrive in which I shall be summoned to join you!

I cannot retire from this edifice without remarking, that whatever imperfections there may be in the regularity of its structure, it is amply compensated by its neatness; indeed this is so particularly attended to, as not only to render it truly impressive, but to inspire the mind with sentiments suitable to the purpose for which the building was intended.

After leaving the church with an impression of melancholy, yet of pleasure, not only caused by visiting the asylum of departed virtues, but by wandering over ruins that picture the escutcheon of destroying time, I was awakened from my contemplation by the appearance of a

woman busied among the graves: on approaching unobserved, I soon perceived it was nature in distress; she was on her knees, looking pathetically on a little earthy hillock, enamelled with flowers, and surrounded by a narrow grass border, which she was carefully weeding;—now her eyes were directed up to heaven, then on the grave, and shaking her head, when a deep sigh waved these little vegetable records which were profusely watered by her tributes of unfeigned sorrow. Her grief interested my feelings, I could no longer resist enquiring for her tale of woe: she told me, it was the peaceful remains of her only child!! unfolded with such simplicity, with a voice so much in the tone of distress, and with actions so truly the types of affliction, that I was obliged (without being able to say I pitied her situation) to conceal myself among the ruins, fearful of being reproached with a weakness in which nature could only find relief; there I silently reviewed this testimony of affection, and earnestly entreated, that whenever it pleased heaven to take from me life, there

might be one remembering friend to visit the humble spot and mark the repository of my ashes, by so expressive, tender, and pleasing an office.

The town of Landaff is small, and the example exhibited by its ecclesiastical edifice, has become a proselyte to the pattern of its neatness: no sooner had I taken my farewell of this place, than the river Taffe presented itself; the beauty of its varied shores was pleasingly harmonized, by the breadth and transparency of its murmuring stream; passing over it by a bridge of two arches, at the distance of two miles to the left, through a country replete with objects to render scenery interesting, and delightfully pleasing by the countenances of the inhabitants so expressive of happiness; the canal became my close companion, and the river I had lately left, was winding through the vale in fanciful directions, to make it most agreeable to the eye; its boundaries comprised every charming assemblage of pleasing variety, in which the united efforts of nature

and art were most tastefully displayed: the opposite hill was beautifully clothed with coppice wood, that gave it a forest-like appearance, and rendered it doubly interesting by the situation of Mr. Lewis's iron-works, and the many residences of those who are there employed; the attention now became particularly engaged on a castellated ruin, which though it

bore the evidence of great decline, was marked with the character of ancient splendour; its walls were partially veiled by a mantling of ivy, and placed midway down the mountain's side, its rear was so thickly overshadowed with embowering trees, as to deny the rays of the sun to penetrate; while in other parts you observe masses of limestone, embellished with timber, finding subsistence from the crevices of its rocks: a workman being employed at the lime-kilns below it, (who I was delighted to find understood sufficient English to be sensible to my request,) induced me to enquire of him the name of the castle, and if any history, traditional or otherwise, was related to it; but here the unaccommodating disposition of one of the lowest order of the people, in denying a stranger the least information, put my humor to the test, and had an oath been pardonable, it would have claimed privilege on this mortifying occasion. 'What is the name of the 'castle?' '*Dim saesoneg.*'—'Is there any his-'tory of it?' '*Dim saesoneg.*'—'How far to 'Pont-y-pridd?' '*Dim saesoneg.*'—'Where

'does the canal go to?' '*Dim saesoneg.*'— Determined to put a still simpler question, asked him the name of his national river which was rolling at our feet? '*Dim saesoneg*'. This perverseness I must acknowledge provoked me to be personal, and in hasty terms, applied a name derived from the river, gracefully meandring in sight, which fired the Cambrian to such a degree, that the Briton and Saxon had nearly got to blows.

This castle is named Castle-coch, and supposed to have been erected to defend the pass of the river, though its situation is certainly ill judged, on account of the hill which commands it: the access is difficult, not only from its stupendous height, and being overgrown with bushes, but the barrier of loose stones (which once composed a part of its fabric) is now formed as a wall; and, strange to relate, every step appeared to have been taken to impede an explorer: the interior presented one series of desolation; and though there is a pleasure in wandering over a mouldering pile, the gloomy

monument of departed fame, robbed it of the usual gratification, and excited a solemnity: trees and shrubs became the residents of its courts, and its ruined walls were obstructed from the eye by a darkening veil of ivy, that rendered it difficult, from its dilapidated state, to trace its former extent. The magnificence of its front is peculiarly attractive, and serves to throw a light on its former fame; but on researching this noble remain, I was amply rewarded, and pleasure resumed its gratification, by a view from its large broken window presenting such a variety of countless charms, beyond the reach of description or delineation: the scene was diversified in every fanciful form that embraces the most pleasing features of landscape, adorned with a river winding through a rich and high cultivated tract, ornamented with a view of Cardiff, Landaff, and numerous other interesting objects, until it reached the broad expanse of the Bristol channel, the whole forming a charming assemblage of choice and variegated beauties; there is scarcely any knowledge to be gained of this place; but some

relate a story somehow connected with it, that when Jestyn-ap-Gwrgwn, a prince of Glamorganshire, lived at Cardiff castle, Castle-coch (or the red castle) was inhabited by a petty prince, named Ivor Bach, (or little Ivor, a short, resolute man), a mutual love having been formed with one of Jestyn's daughters, he applied to her parents for consent, which was refused; Ivor justly considering that life is undesirable if separated from the object of love, collected a chosen band, stormed Cardiff castle, and carried off his prize; the enraged father pursued, but soon afterwards consented to the union. Ivor Bach was a descendant and the last of the kings of Baycheinog, he was slain in battle in a valley called after him, Pant-coed-Ivor, or the valley of Ivor's army.

Turning down a narrow lane, immediately opposite to a wear, which was transversely stretching across the stream of the Taffe to turn the water to Mr. Lewis's forge, I found the remains of the once celebrated Taffe's well; it is a mineral spring, and said to be

strongly impregnated with iron, issuing through an immense bed of that ore, which runs in the direction under the river, and of very considerable extent: the situation was truly romantic, in a peaceful vale, enclosed by lofty boundaries, ornamented with hanging woods, contrasting a variety of hues, and the meandering Taffe roaring as it rolled along in agitated haste.

The spring was formerly enclosed, and its original construction had united considerable strength to a good display of masonry; but the irresistible force of the winter floods (for want of proper attention) had caused a chasm nearly to the bottom, and promises eventually to leave no vestige of a barrier sufficient to confine a body of water to be the least serviceable. It is reported to possess the infallible property of curing the most inveterate rheumatism, and innumerable cures are said to have been acquired by the efficacy of the water, which I heard from many people of the country: the brightness of the day gave me

an opportunity of distinctly observing several powerful springs rising from the bottom of the well, at the depth of three feet, keeping the sand in perpetual playful motion; and often would a column of water rush with such considerable force as to exceed the limits of its surface, continuing for the space of a minute or two, and would return in irregular periods of three, four, and nearly five minutes; numerous bubbles were disseminating through the whole, and often a column of air would rush with great noise; the water which was escaping was very abundant, and had incrusted the stones it passed over to resemble corroded gravel; it was beautifully transparent, much warmer than the Taffe, and very grateful to the palate; it is totally unheard of in the page of history, and its virtues preserved only in the tradition of the country, of which numerous instances were related to to me of its success. I have been thus particular, with a hope that some gentleman versed in chemistry will be induced to analyse and elucidate its properties, as its renown might

still be rescued, by which he would meet with the reward of rendering a peculiar kindness to society, and administer a charm, equalled by no other gratification, of making others happy.

While I was thus perplexing my mind to account for the singular and astonishing effect of the well, my reverie was interrupted by a girl, appearing about 16, supported on one side by a crutch, and the other by a venerable female friend; the girl was attired, as is usual in this part of the principality, in a little beaver hat similar to those worn by men, a neat plaited mob cap was tied under her chin, and over a blue jacket a whittle was substituted for a cloak, and thrown gracefully over her shoulders; the form of her face had been round, but illness and a marked melancholy, though they had changed the form, could not conceal the vestiges of beauty; her manners were wonderfully soft, and her voice so musically sweet, that I could not help listening with uncommon attention to the detail of her misfortunes: her aged guide expatiated on the

numerous cures performed by the efficacy of its water, and lamented the rich did not contribute to give health and comfort to others; but its dilapidated state, allowing the water of the river often to mingle with the contents of the well, was a circumstance of the deepest regret to her and the country, as by it the water was rendered less efficacious; 'Yes, Sir,' rejoined her young charge, 'I should have 'been cured before this;' and detailed her visitation of Providence with so simple a grace and earnestness, looking significantly at the well, that I never felt the loss of fortune so severely as at that moment, to reflect I was incapable of repairing its structure: the relation of her sorrow not only excited the emotions which had agitated her mind, to make them tremble in her eye but to quiver on her lips; this induced me to use all the rhetoric I was master of, not only to dispel the cloud of dejection, but to impress on her mind a restoration of health as certain; it had the most wished-for effect, and a pleasure was momentarily gathering on that face which appeared to

have been a stranger to a smile for a length of time; after a lengthened attentive look on the well, as if she read an assurance of my prediction; she raised her eyes until they met mine, then on the well, — then on me, — and thus kept alternately changing the object with a visible pleasure playing on her countenance. It now became time to depart, and again on assuring her of a restoration, told her I little doubted, when visiting the country again to hear my wishes realised, and that perhaps her children would unite in offering up their praises for the recovery; the very idea abridged the native innocence of her tongue from taking leave, but the conscious eloquence of her modesty bade me farewell, by the expression of a blush.

The road continuing by the path of the canal, its placid face formed a happy contrast to the impetuous river which was breaking over the distorted rocky impediments which filled its bed, and winding through the centre of the vale, whose boundaries were lofty, clothed with wood, tastefully intersected by innumer-

able lines as the vernal divisions of inclosures. At the Bridgewater Arms I took up my abode, as it appeared so much the residence of rural nature; this house, though not foremost in comforts, must have precedence for eggs, bacon, and civility; the country now presents a different feature; quarries of large flat stones and white slate are numerous, as are coal and iron works: turning down a lane beyond Mr. CRAWSHAW's new forge, the beautiful structure of Pont-y-Pridd bursts on the

sight, placed in such a situation as to be completely concealed until a very near approach, when the delight and surprize to see so light and beautiful a structure bending over so immense a stream, makes language too poor for its description; the torrent is seen stealing from behind a fertile and well cultivated hill, pleasingly diversified with wood; on the left a lofty hill displays mountain scenery, with the summit covered with fern or russet herbage, except where stratas of quarry had excluded all vegetation, and midway down the side is a thick covering of trees surrounding a little cottage, and a distant view of a rich fertilized country peeping under the arch, united to combine every thing that was pleasing, but with all the delight of these contrasting scenes, the eye was scarcely allowed leisure to gaze by the elegant structure which was striding across a furious stream, and never could I have been satisfied, nor should I have so hastily left it, had not the collecting water from the deluge which fell in the course of the night, not only set

limits to my delighted fancy, but warned me to depart by hastily accumulating, and encircling the little hill I stood on. An attempt to describe the beauties surrounding this remarkable proof of a man's native genius, must fall far short of the reality, the object itself challenging every work of the kind to surpass, or even to equal; the chord of it is 140 feet, from a diameter of 175; its height is 35, and notwithstanding the apparent lightness and simplicity, has hitherto braved the utmost fury of the ungovernable stream ever since 1756, and continues likely to remain as firm, so long as care is taken of it. Such an assemblage of art and nature it was difficult for me to quit, and shall take the opportunity of informing my readers, that this structure owes its rise to accidents, and persevering endeavours to counteract them.

The hundreds of Miskin and Senghennyth contracted with William Edwards, a Welsh common mason, to erect a bridge of four

arches, for which he was to have £500. and ensure its duration for seven years; this failed in less than two, from the furious torrent which overwhelmed it; in consequence he was necessitated to rebuild, according to his bond; his next scheme was a single arch to be of sufficient width to permit the free run of the river without impediment, and to defy any of the usual floods from destroying his labour: he met with some difficulty in gaining the approbation of his sureties, who conceived the scheme to be romantic and impracticable; however he gained his point to attempt it, and when nearly completed, his timber supports gave way, and all fell down: undaunted by this accident, he persevered with stronger assistances, on finishing a single-arched bridge, but he soon after found he had fresh occasion for his inventive genius, as, owing to the thinness of the crown of the arch, the heavy abutments forced it upwards, and again destroyed his performance, but his merits appeared so fully to the Lords Talbot and Windsor, that they generously

assisted his enterprising spirit in a fresh attempt to retain his design of a single arch, and on lightening the very great pressure of the abutment by the contrivance of three tunnels on each side of the centre; he fully accomplished his ideas, and has left to the world a specimen of uncommon singularity, beauty, utility, and solidity, which has withstood the united force of tempests, torrents, &c. for 46 years past, as a stone in the centre informs us, "William Edwards, 1756." A person of taste will be fascinated by the survey of it and its neighbouring scenery, and I know not that a spot so well chosen could be found to embellish a work of such a nature; the whole forming so grand an appearance as must be always pleasing and unceasingly gratifying.

Observing a stream apparently of no inconsiderable consequence, and tributary to the Taffe, I was induced to approach it, when I perceived a plain neat structure across the river Rhonda, by two arches, the banks thickly

aded with wood, and the distant country enriched with high cultivation; the river appeared to be emerging from a thick wood, and bathing a fisherman's cottage, stationed in the most convenient manner for its master's avocations, it then became separated by rude impediments, and as it approached the bridge, softened into rippling streams from the ridges of pebbles, pursuing a rural road embowered with trees, through occasional openings of which the river would present itself, dashing and roaring over

mishapen rocks, fringed with mosses of the deepest hue: at the distance of two miles Berw Rhonda appears; the cataract contracted

by nature rushes with irresistible force, and forms a cascade enveloped in white foam; the opposite confine of the river is an abrupt bank, thickly covered with wild shrubs and

trees springing from the interstices of the rock, where a seed has been by chance dropped, and cherished by the soil contained in it: here I enjoyed some pleasant fishing, though the trout are very small, but from the large tablets of stone that had obtruded themselves into the stream, gave me a fine opportunity of throwing my line with the greatest precision.

On returning by the road I came, a narrow wooden foot-bridge bestrided the enraged torrent; theagitation it was in, and the gloominess of the trees that overshadowed it, filled my mind with a terror mingled with delight, and the fineness of the evening tempted me to sit down, when the distant murmuring of the cataract I had left, was most agreeably harmonized by the softer notes of various babbling brooks.

Leaving the Bridgewater Arms, continued by the side of the canal for about a mile and an half, to see the famous fall and salmon leap,

called Berw Riské, on the Taffe, which is at the foot of the mountain, seen in the view from Pont-y-Pridd. Pursuing a winding, treacherous path, the roar not only kept measuring the distance, but warned me what I might expect; but very much was that expectation out-done on arriving at the cascade; it is of enchanting beauty, and its grand current, divided by a few rocky projections, made its fall more tremendous, and stunned the ear by the peal of its thundering down; from the craggy interstices of the bank, a few stately trees had taken root, whose hanging heads and extended arms were not only waved, but the pendant branches were endeavouring to soothe the angry torrent by sweeping its furious surface; there were not any salmon attempting to stem the impetuous stream while I was there, which my guide expressed as surprising, though he acknowledged, from the fullness of the river, few could succeed; the fall of it was at least 15 feet, and on a projecting fragment the fisherman stands with a sharp hook at the end of a pole, which (when the fish leaps) with great

dexterity he scarcely ever fails of striking into it.

Returning to the road, the country displayed a variety of mountain scenery, and the singular effect of 16 locks of the canal rising above each other as a flight of steps, the canal passing over the impetuous river by means of an aqueduct, and the mill taking the advantage of a tributary brook, are features of no inconsiderable gratification: turning to the left, at the Quaker's burying ground, and ascending the lofty eminence on the right, presents an exuberant mantle of wood, the iron dram, or rail-road, is in view, which extends from Merthyr to the canal navigation house, where it is seen curving in obedient windings to the formation of the hills, whose side it is travelling by; here I had manifest proof of the inventive faculty of man, and persevering assiduity to surmount the obstacles lying in the way of his pursuits; it is astonishing to what lengths the unceasing propen-

sity to acquire facility, to undertakings, be it in whatever profession it may, will carry the labours and contrivances, and the expenditure of property, to create conveniences. Indeed the great spirit of enterprise seems unabated throughout the whole country; nor are bounds set to any undertaking that appears to have a chance of success; although matters to a common observer seem unsurmountable in every direction, difficulties are but little thought of, and the strong arm of labour surmounts the whole: when we consider the efforts to be used, and the property expended in the construction of an iron rail road, for the purpose alone of conveying the goods from the manufactories to the canals or river, we are led to wonder that such extensive means are employed to apparently so little purpose, or that ever a remuneration could be made to either projectors or proprietors; and great indeed must be the *quantum* of matter sent forth from the works to enable the owners to reimburse themselves, and encourage such undertakings.

To be properly convinced of the magnificence of these schemes, requires personal observation; for description must fail of magnitude, although prolix in the display: it will not be amiss to give some idea of the performance, which, although I closely surveyed, and had described to me by parties employed thereon, I conceive there cannot be so correct an account as related by an Author*, in every respect qualified to gratify the most curious, and content the most scrupulous; and although the description is in reference to another place, and in another county, still from the similarity of all works of this nature one will serve for the whole. I shall therefore abide by his words :—

"A rail road is so called, because it is formed by a kind of frame "with iron rails, or bars laid lengthways, and fastened or cramped by "means of cross bars; the ground being excavated, about six feet in "breadth, and two in depth, is strewed over with broken pieces of "stone, and the frame laid down; it is composed of rails, sleepers, or "cross bars and under sleepers, the rail is a bar of cast iron, four feet in "length, three inches thick, and one and a half broad, its extremities "are respectively concave and convex, or in other words, are morticed

* Mr. Coxe.

" and tenanted into each other, and fastened at the end by two wooden " pegs to a cross bar called a sleeper; this sleeper was originally of iron, " but experience having shewn that iron was liable to snap or bend, it " is now made of wood, which is considerably cheaper, and requires less " repair; under each extremity of the sleeper is a square piece of wood, " called the under sleeper, to which it is attached by a peg: the frame " being thus laid down, and filled with stones, gravel, and earth, the " iron rails form a ridge above the surface, over which the wheels of " the cars glide, by means of iron grooved rims three inches and a half " broad; this is the general structure of the road when carried in a straight " line; at the junction of two roads, and to facilitate the passage of two " cars in opposite directions, moveable rails, called turn-rails, are occa- " sionally used, which are fastened with screws instead of pegs, and may " be pushed side-ways. The level of the ground is taken with great " exactness, and the declivity in general so gentle as to be almost imper- " ceptible, the perpendicular fall of the ground being no more than one " inch in a yard, and scarcely ever more than three; the road sometimes " conveyed in a straight line, sometimes winding round the sides of " precipices is a picturesque object, and the cars filled with coals or iron, " and gliding along occasionally without horses, impress the traveller who " is unaccustomed to such spectacles, with pleasing astonishment: the " expence of forming these roads is very considerable, varying according " to the nature of the ground, and the difficulty of procuring proper ma- " terials, it is seldom less than £1000. per mile, and sometimes exceeds " that sum; the cars from the solidity of their structure, and the quantity " of iron used in the axle-tree and wheels, when loaded weigh not less " than three tons and a half; they are drawn by a single horse, and the " driver stands on a kind of foot-board behind, and can instantaneously " stop the car by means of a lever and a drop, which falls between the " wheels and suspends their motion; in places where the declivity is more " rapid than usual, the horse is taken out, and the car impelled forward " by its own weight."

This is part of a country where the spirit of industry seems to meet with the success it deserves, and is plainly perceptible among the numerous iron forges, coal mines, &c. which are in establishment, and by new erections for the same purpose; the country now gave evidences of increased and increasing population, by the valley being sprinkled with villages and numerouss edifices: before I reached Merthyr, it was no longer in repose, but all a scene of active employ, and often would a car emerge from a subterraneous world, through a chasm so small as not to be observed until very near it, and columns of dark smoke were rising in every direction.

Passing Mr. HILL's works, the ear is first assailed by massive hammers, and the roar of furnaces. I soon reached Merthyr Tydfil, where the river appeared choaked with the scoriæ of iron ore, so baneful to fish: — with truth it may be said, no place in the kingdom has had so rapid an increase of trade and population in the same number of years; here were objects

to me new, striking, and in part wonderful, and afforded an opportunity of observing what the abilities of man could be master of, by the application of property, and by perseverance; the whole district, and the neighbouring hills, abound with food for the employment, and literally give bread to thousands of artificers in the service of the works of Clyfartha, Dowlais, Plymouth, and Pen-y-Darran; the appearance of them create an idea of the gloomy mansions of Pluto's inhabitants existing amidst volcanoes, breathing fire and smoke, and whose flames serve only to add to their enjoyment.

I first visited the works of Mr. HUMPHREYS, the civility of that gentleman not only allowed me the privilege of inspecting, but sent an intelligent person to point out the different processes, which, did I attempt to describe minutely, I should only do injustice to the task, and betray my own inability; from the native advantage of the place, the coke is here burned, and the iron-stone and lime calcined, which unites by adding one-third of the

latter to two-thirds of the former; it is then submitted into the fineries, and melted into pigs, then to the puddling furnace, and formed into lumps by ponderous hammers, after which from the blooming furnace, it is, by cylinders, rolled into bars, when it again undergoes a process called finishing, previous to its being sent away; and the forming the horse-shoe by means of a mould, is a further proof of immeasurable genius. The machinery of this gentleman's works is put in motion principally by steam, and all must be acknowledged to be regulated with extreme order and neatness.

I now went to the works of Mr. CRAWSHAY, whose politeness and hospitality to me, did I forget to acknowledge, would be a lasting reproach, from such extreme civility offered to a total stranger. The works of this gentleman are on the like process, but on a more enlarged scale than the one I had just left; employing, as I understood, of men, women, and children, near FOUR THOUSAND; the countenances of those engaged about the furnaces,

portrayed the ill effects of their dreadful vocations; and the sooty legions so disfigured by smoke, pictured more the looks of infernals than human beings.

I can never erase from my recollection the impression caused when the beautiful iron overshot wheel came first in view; it is allowed to be the largest in the world, being no less than 50 feet in diameter, and six in breadth; the various mechanism attendant on it is beautifully connected, and seems to move with conscious grace; the escaping water shaded all in mist by its spray, and the body having performed its office forms afterward a fine cascade; it is called Eolus, and furnishes breath for four bloomeries and four fineries; the water which turns it is conveyed from the hills nearly five miles distant, across the Taffe, and forms a double aqueduct, elevated above the bed of the river 60 or 70 feet, supported for near 300 yards, part by stone pillars, and the remainder by wood and iron. The apparent lightness of the whole, contrasted with

the massy boundary of the river, has not only a singular, but a very interesting and pleasing appearance. I cannot conclude without saying, that an admirer of human achievement would be gratified for coming from any distance to visit this monument of genius erected to the memory of its enterprising proprietor, and a deserving artist: it should also be observed, that the whole rests on gudgeons of 100 tons, and that it is the constant province of one man to apply sufficient grease to avoid the danger of fire arising from friction; and his peculiar situation at different times in the performance is remarkable.

The different works in this place are computed to consume 245 tons of coal in a day, and to complete (on an average) 253 tons of iron per week. It is highly advantageous to some of the works that the coal, the ore, and lime are within 100 yards of each other; thus avoiding a considerable expence which is attached to many works of similar kind in the country, of having some portion of their materials to bring from far: and to add still

to the convenience of Merthyr was the canal (I so long came on the borders of) constructed, and is reported to have cost the proprietors £120,000. expended in order to convey, in conjunction with other commodities, the produce of their labor to Cardiff with more ease and greater certainty for the shipping of various parts.

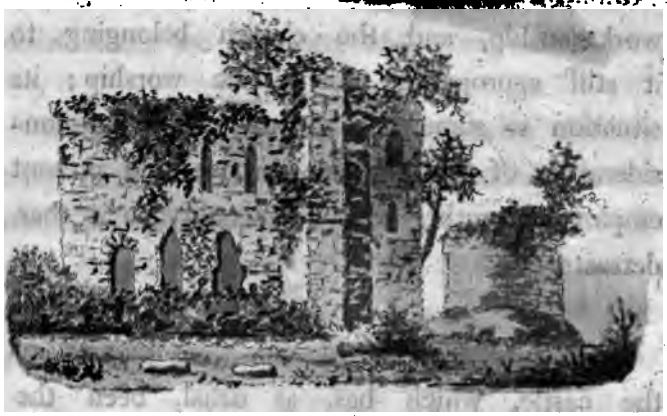
Merthyr, situated between the hills, has a singular effect, if seen from any of them during the night, when the various fires and blastings from the furnaces, with the incessant din of hammers, wheels, mills, and water, adds to the awful effect. As to the healthfulness of this place, I cannot form any flattering conclusions, when it is considered what clouds of smoke arise from the works: it is sufficiently populous to afford two market-days in a week, and four fairs in the year; and the number of inhabitants is to a certainty more than 10,000; and while the contiguous parts are so productive as to keep the manufactories in employ, the place will rather increase than diminish.

After leaving Merthyr a few miles, I entered Brecknockshire; for some distance the country was thickly strewed with rude stones that usurped the province of vegetation; on the right an upright rock towered its head into a cloud, when the vale through which the Taffe was gliding was glittering by the gilded rays of the sun; the face of this terrific mass was bedecked with wild vegetation, flowers, and patches of sportive ivy; and chasms were nourishing the roots of shrubs, which appeared to triumph in this unmolested situation. The face of day considerably changed, and darkening clouds were gathering from every quarter; the atmosphere became in sable tint, and I was soon driven by the pitiless storm to seek shelter at the half-way house, a very humble pile indeed, and appearing to be raised for the residence of undisturbed solitude; but the study to please made me forget that any thing beyond common comforts were superfluous: neither the good old woman or her handmaid could speak English, nor I the dialect of their country; however with various actions of dumb

shew, I had all my wants supplied: on the storm being appeased, and the face of heaven resuming its wonted serenity, pursued my journey; the country now became poor in trees, and the steep barren mountains were spotted with sheep picking a scanty subsistence; the sides of this range of lofty hills were grooved by the power of winter torrents, whose numerous tributary streams account for the hasty rise of the river; here passing over a small bridge, I took leave of the river which had been my companion for upwards of 40 miles, no longer of consequence to set limits to my admiration, but dwindled into a trifling brook only a few feet wide, and retiring to the right, is lost among the mountains where it receives its origin.

I had scarcely left my late companion, when I became interested in observing the sources of the river Tarrant: small bubbling springs with scarcely strength to run were rising by the side of the road, but the numerous assemblage of them rapidly increased in size, and the mountains assumed the same appearance of being

worn by winter torrents. I could not but observe and admire the attention that is here paid to keep the mile stones regular and perfectly intelligible; a circumstance which is disgracefully neglected in many parts of England. The Tarrant had now enlarged itself to a considerable stream, and assisted to embellish the country, which became more and more improving in beauty the nearer I approached to Brecon; on reaching the bridge, the venerable castle presents itself, at whose feet the transparent Usk was rolling; the



town is of considerable size, and replete with conveniencies of every description, most agreeably situated on an eminence, which gives it an advantage for pleasing scenery to be observed from most parts of it; this has been important ground for many ages, and has afforded its share in the pleasures and toils of different parties. Its various ruins, of as various buildings, are monuments of its original consequence, and frequent sufferings; it is now large and populous, and not unhandsome; has three principal streets, and among them several houses more elegant than is usual in such distant towns. The remains of the priory exhibit a considerable share of old gothic workmanship, and the church belonging to it still appropriated for public worship; its situation is somewhat gloomy, but the consideration of its original purpose and present employment rather adds a solemnity to it than detracts.

In the neighbourhood are the remains of the castle, which has, as usual, been the

contested object and refuge of various parties; but its greatest peculiarity is on account of the settlement between the duke of Buckingham and the bishop of Ely, for the restoration of the Lancastrian line to the throne of England, which was here successfully managed, and in the end completed; but it should have been previously observed, that the bishop was a prisoner of the duke's at the time of the scheme originating. The history of this place can be brought into a small compass in respect of events, of which I shall not be prolix. Of the early date of Brecknock it is related, that

The men of Brecknock are said to have slain Ithol, the 53d king of Gwent, in 846.

After the Danes were defeated by Alfred, they passed the Severn and spoiled Brecknock in 896.

Bernard de Newmarch took possession of the province of Brecknock after a conquest, which

he was permitted to achieve after the success of Fitzhamon, and the death of Rhys-ap-Tewdor, in the time of Henry I. he is supposed to have founded the castle.

When William de Bruce was lord of Brecknock, his uncle, Henry of Hereford, was murdered by some chieftains of Gwent, in the reign of Henry II; and in retaliation for the deed, William gave an invitation to Seisyllt-ap-Dyfnwall, his son Geoffry, and others, to Abergavenny as to an entertainment, but in the mean time had the house of Seisyllt burnt, his son (an infant) killed in the presence of the mother, whom he had also conveyed to his castle.

Trahern the little, a chieftain of Brecknock, was assassinated by William de Bruce, a Norman lord, in the reign of Richard I.

Brecknock was besieged in the reign of Henry III. by Llewellyn, anno 1216: but it

was afterwards raised, and mutual compromises made by the parties. (*Vide* page 127).

Llewellyn having ignominiously put to death William de Bruce, then lord of Brecknock, Henry of England summoned Llewellyn to appear before him, but he not complying, and acting with hostility, the king sent governors into Wales, and treated the Welsh with some cruelty, under the plea of conquest in 1231; Llewellyn on this made himself (among others) master of Brecknock fortress.

The country between Brecknock and Hereford was greatly devastated by the contending parties of the king and the earl of Leicester, in conjunction with Llewellyn. It may be here observed, that in the succeeding reign of Edward, Llewellyn lost all power excepting by favor of the king, and was afterwards slain at Bualth, from which time the principality became affixed to England's crown; but those parts which constituted the strength of the place and

security to the town, are now so dilapidated, that we may,

" Deep struck with awe, now mark the dome o'erthrown,
" Where once the beauty bloomed, the warrior shone;
" And see the castle's mouldering towers decayed,
" The loose stone tottering o'er the trembling shade."

The castle is separated from the town by the river Tarrel, over which there is a narrow bridge. At the east end of the town is the college, which had originally been a Dominican priory, but converted by Henry VIII. who stiled it " the college of Christchurch, Brecknock," having added to it the college of Abergilu, it remains at this time, consisting of the bishop of St. David, as dean, a precentor, treasurer, chancellor, and nineteen prebendaries; three of the bishops were buried here, viz. Mainwaring, Lucy, and Bull; the walks are wonderfully pleasant, and shew that the monks were pretty well acquainted with the benefit of pleasant circumstances to enliven their hours of recreation; the river close by can scarcely be seen,

but its murmuring course may be very distinctly heard, and its romantic scenery affords an agreeable resort for the present inhabitants of the town.

The church is an handsome edifice in the form of a cross, has side ailes in the body, but none in the chancel, and the cloisters may still be seen, which originally joined it to the priory: the inhabitants are numerous, and the many respectable edifices bespeak its prosperity, and I should deserve to be branded with ingratitude did I neglect to offer my thanks to the Rev. RICHARD DAVIS, chief magistrate of the place, not only for his hospitality, but trouble in pointing out any thing worthy of attention. No sooner had I left Brecon, but the scenes became enriched with every object that can diversify landscape in the most picturesque effect, and all the productions of the earth were embellishing the vale in abundant fertility, beautifully intersected by vernal enclosures, tinged with all the colours most grateful to the sight, and flourish-

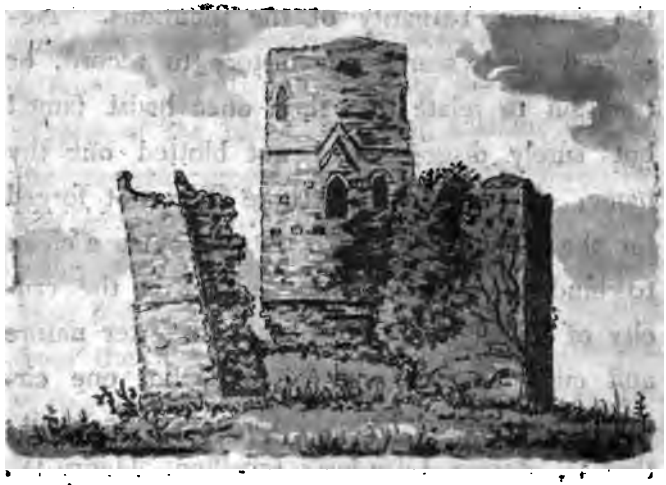
ing from the industrious attention paid to agriculture: through this smiling plain the meandering Usk winds its rippling face in every fantastic curvature, and finely contrasting the regular and glassy surface of the canal, which appears sullen by the conscious superiority of the celebrated river; on each side the banks rise with graceful ascent, and break into a rich prospect of ornamented and cultivated nature, spotted with numerous small residences seated on its bosom; the valley is spacious, and receives an additional grace by being sprinkled with edifices all arrayed in white; picturing the sweet blessings of content, presenting a most garnished view, arrayed in the gay attire of nature, and making it impossible to do justice to such scenery by any attempt of mine in description; when I considered the amazing product likely to be obtained, I could not but recollect with pleasure, the following energetic lines on the security this kingdom enjoys, in respect to the property of individuals, in every station of their occupations,

" Oh happy plains, remote from war's alarms,
" And all the ravages of hostile arms!
" And happy shepherds, who, secure from fear,
" On open downs, preserve your fleecy care!
" Where spacious barns groan with increasing store,
" And whirling flails disjoint the cracking floor,
" No barbarous soldier, bent on cruel spoil,
" Spreads desolation o'er your fertile soil;
" No trampling steed lays waste the ripening grain,
" No crackling fires devour the promised gain:
" No flaming beacons cast their blaze afar,
" The dreadful signal of invasive war;
" No trumpet's clangor wounds the mother's ear,
" And calls the lover from his swooning fair.
" The happy fields, unknown to noise and strife,
" The kind rewarders of industrious life."

Near the fifth mile stone on the left, by the road side, is a venerable monument of antiquity, which is nearly involved in obscurity; it is of a cylindrical form, about five feet high, on which the traces of a few Roman letters still remain, though time has bestowed much pains to destroy its dumb eloquence; it is by some supposed to be a sepulchral pillar: Camden takes notice of it, and describes the characters to have been N——— filius Victorini, and bishop Gibson likewise mentions

the stone, but no certainty, from either them or the stone itself, can now be had, and it is with some difficulty that VICTOR can be clearly distinguished, so all conjecture for what purpose or by whom erected must be superfluous; of its antiquity alone we can be certain, but the great destroyer of all will perhaps soon erase every mark now remaining, and consign the whole to oblivion.

The nearer approaches of the road became more wooded, but not less agreeable, and while the eye was viewing such a series of delights from the prospects, the fragrant flowers of the entwining honeysuckle, were filling the air with the sweetness of its perfume, to add to the gratification of another sense; to the right is the house of Mr. WYNNIS, called Buckland; on the left the ride receives no inconsiderable ornament from a vast sheet of water, called Lan-gos-pool: near the eleventh mile stone the remain of a castellated object, called Tretwr, hands itself to notice by



peeping above numerous trees in the midst of a small village; it does not appear a very ancient structure, but the nearer I approached, the more my attention was demanded; not only by the elegance of its tower, but the yellow tint left from the pencil of corroding time; nothing remained but the ruined circular shell, and a few vestiges of ancient modes of defence which once enclosed it, were partly hidden from the eye by a luxuriant mantle of ivy, while another was in a declining posture,

not so much from the decay of time, as from the wanton barbarity of the incurious. Neglected pile! scarce any history to record, or tradition to relate that thou once hadst fame! but surely disgrace had not blotted out thy name, as being one of those links not forged for the strength of the country, but as a chain to bind the liberty of the subject in the cruelty of feudal times, a shackle to fetter nature and curb its freedom! There is but one circumstance which I could find relating to it; that is, during Glendwr's rebellion, Henry IV. confided it to James Berkley, from which we may conclude the structure owes its demolition to that chief. Of the village, there is nothing else of consequence to detain a traveller.

Continuing onwards, every step affords a various prospect rendered beautiful by change, and more delightful by variety; yet, paradoxical as it may seem, it is still a sameness; but that sameness, from its incessant loveliness, not only animates the eye, but enlivens the mind; the mansion, the village, the cottage,

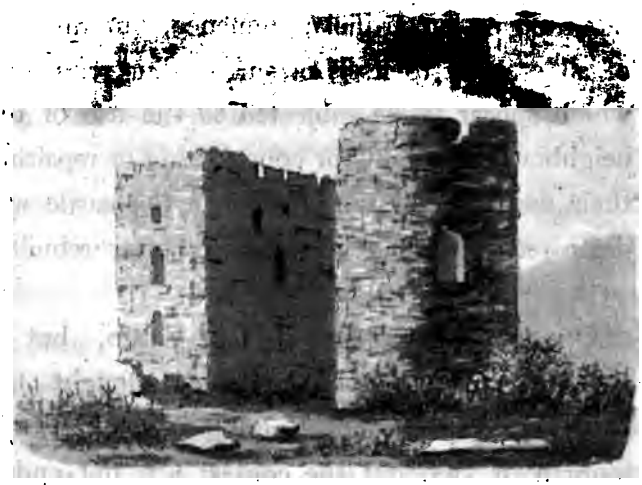
were sprinkled on the confines of the stream, all tinted in white, as emblematical of internal neatness, and I could not help infringing on a commandment by coveting the lowly roof of one of the latter, but not without wishing the present proprietor was benefited by the loss of it. There is one peculiarly attractive, being the residence of Admiral GELL (and I must beg leave to adopt the sentiments flowing from the elegant pen of Mr. Skrine), "distinguished for the beauty of its position, the "singularity of its structure, and the eccentric "benevolence of its worthy owner, who, retired "with well earned fame from the active duties "of his profession, here gladdens the heart of "the villager by his liberality, and is justly "esteemed by the whole country."

Opposite to the last-mentioned place, by the road side, and one mile distant, stands a cromlech, an immense flat stone, supported by four others, supposed to have been dedicated to, and employed in the rites of Druidical religion, a record of savage barbarity

where human sacrifices are said to have been offered to their deities; and when I reflected that this might have been stained by their horrid rites of superstition, as the blood of men was considered more acceptable than that of animals, perhaps it might have been reeking with human gore, I could not resist pitying their barbarous zeal as considering it a sanction whereby every species of vice was washed away.

I now entered Crick-howell, or as others stile it Crug-hywel, and found it a neat though small town, situated near the Usk, over which there is a bridge of fourteen arches; the inhabitants boast of the salubrity of this situation, and informed me they were frequently resorted to by numerous visitors, for the benefit of pure air and assistance of goat's milk whey; they appear to enjoy of the necessaries and comforts of life a very considerable share; and as far as I was concerned in acquiring, found as reasonable as most parts of this country; and the habitations altogether were very respectable.

At a little distance from the extremity of the town, and rather out of the road, are the remains of an ancient castle, called by some



Alisby castle, but from its present appearance scarce any regular information can be gained, but is now interesting only as

> " ——— Time's gradual touch
> " has mouldered into beauty many a tower,
> " which, when it frowned with all its battlements,
> " was only terrible."

and instead of the shew of defence, now pre-

sents a few unprotected walls interspersed with ivy. In Glendwr's rebellion, the king of England entrusted this castle to John Pouncefort; the keep is somewhat in the manner of Cardiff, mounted on an artificial eminence, but divested of all security to itself or surrounding remnants, which appear to be subjected to the use of the neighbouring people, for constructing or repairing their dwellings; in all probability, this castle was destroyed by Glendwr, and never after rebuilt.

On the mountain called Carno, but a small distance from hence, was fought the battle between Ethelbald and the force of Glamorgan in 728, but the contest was not ended by the particular success of either party; the appearance of the country resembled what I have before observed, and continued in the same species of scenery, changing every moment into some new beauties, and every instant disclosing the profuse gifts of nature teeming with fertility, and every house and person avowing the enjoyment of content and happiness; and

" The lucid Usk the enamoured eye pursues
" along the expanse, the undulating line
" that nature loves, whether with gentle bend
" she slopes the vale, or lifts the gradual hill,
" winds the free rivulet, or down the bank
" spreads the wild wood's luxuriant youth, or breaks
" with interrupting heights the even bound
" of the outstretch'd horizon.
" ———— gradual up the height
" of the rough hills, ascending Ceres leads
" the patient step of labour; the wide heath,
" where once the nibbling flock scant herbage crop,
" waves in the breeze, with golden harvests crown'd!"

Near the summit of the grassy hills observed small white hillocks, where I was informed lime-kilns had formerly been; and when all the stone well within their reach had been exhausted, the structures were removed into more convenient situations, and are supposed to be the remains of labor two centuries past.

I now entered Abergavenny, a town of much respectability, considerable in size, replete with all conveniences, and a thoroughfare to an extensive part of Wales and northern

counties. It has the character of gaining celebrity from the resort of many persons, as well of fashion, as invalids for the purpose, with which most follow the custom to other places of annual migration, health, variety, and recreation: at the same time it is to be considered, there are not the usual appendages here, as at many others, of minerals or bathing waters; but if rural retirements are sufficiently attractive, and the mind can be satisfied with the scenery and peculiarities of a hilly or mountainous situation, I confess it is a place in most respects applicable, and as reasonable in the articles of food and convenience as any I am acquainted with. It boasts of age, and in conjunction with others, has borne numberless vicissitudes; it stands on a gentle rising ground at the foot of the Deery, and watered by the sinuous and limpid Usk, over which is a fine bridge of fifteen arches. It is stated to have been once a corporated town, and considerable in population; it is well peopled, although several branches of trade have of late years been lost; and is a small traffic in flannels

and shoes, which are sent to Bristol for exportation still remains.

When William III. acquired the government of this realm, Abergavenny is said to have been rather against it, and in consequence they lost their charter; but the neighbouring iron-works in some measure are beginning to bring this place into more importance than it has for many years experienced; and the surrounding eminences seem to promise a lasting and great supply of ore to continue the concerns, of which these are the principal; *viz.* Blanaevon, Beaufort, Serhowy, and Elber-Vale, and the numerous streams descending from the hills are calculated to encourage any establishment which requires the aid of water.

The town was once walled, and had a castle of considerable size, most delightfully situated on an eminence which commands the town, and contributes to the pleasure of an extensive prospect: the ruins may now be a guide to a great share of truth in ascertaining

the original form and extent; and though not nearly so much surrounded by wood, or its wall so profusely covered by the clinging ivy, as many relics of other fortresses are, yet it is an interesting subject for observations and contemplation, now mouldering and presenting to the view the fate of former grandeur and security; erected by Hameline de Baladun, one of the Norman adventurers, who acquired Abergavenny (the ancient Gobannium of the Romans) by conquest, and endeavoured to give it an appearance of a permanent settlement.

In 1177 the castle was chosen by William de Bruce, (a lord of Brecknock), for the duplicity of entertaining Seisyllt, whilst De Bruce burnt the house of his guest, murdered his infant son, and confined the wife, in retaliation for the assassination of Bruce's uncle; for this the castle was afterwards stormed, and the governor, his wife, and garrison, with the fortress, destroyed; and De Bruce narrowly escaped.

In 1202, when Llewellyn gave a blow to the independence of Wales by swearing fealty to the English, and submitting the territory to feudal principles, some occasion of jealousy occurred, and expeditions against Wales were the consequence, when Bruce obtained Abergavenny.

When Henry IV. headed an army in the north during Glendwr's rebellion, among other castles confided to persons of fidelity in the marches, &c. we find Abergavenny was entrusted to Sir William Beauchamp.

The castle and lordship were enjoyed by his son Richard, but he dying in consequence of a wound in 1420, the castle and lordship became the right (as settled by a will of Sir William's, on failure of issue male by his son) of Richard, earl of Warwick, the favorite of Henry V. afterwards his son Henry succeeded and had additional honours given him, by being created duke of Warwick, with privilege to wear a golden coronet; he did not enjoy them long, for dying in the 22d year of his age, the possession fell to

Richard Nevill, brother to the late duke.

The duke of Clarence was the next possessor of the castle, and on his attainder it was taken to by

Richard III.—at his death it was restored to

The widow of the earl of Warwick, who in a short time was compelled to surrender it by deed to

Henry VII. who granted it to

The earl of Pembroke, created duke of Bedford; from him it reverted to the crown.—Henry VIII. restored it to the heirs of its old possessors, the Nevills; which afterwards created some dispute to whom it should of right belong, as the family were divided, and the barony of Le Despenser belonged equally to them; this was decided by granting the barony of Abergavenny to the male, and Le Despenser to the female branch, but precedence to the latter; and by lineal descent, the present earl is the possessor.

This castle has the same privilege as Arundel, that of giving the dignity of baron to its possessor, exclusively of any other creation.

I am not certain of the time or cause which reduced the pile to ruins, but conceive it is not improbable that Glendwr's rebellion was the original means of its destruction, for it is well known that bold chief seldom spared any

edifice which lay in the way of his designs, or afforded protection to his opponents; and those which escaped or had repaired injuries from him, met (with very few exceptions) a final overthrow from the rage and barbarity of Oliver Cromwell.

Many years ago this town had three churches; of which, one only, called St. Mary's, is now appropriated for the service in English; this was once attached to the priory founded by Hameline de Barham (or Baladun) for black Monks of the French order;* in it are many curious monuments of antiquity, and of noble and ancient families; but to enumerate them or to give description, would not be very interesting, and the guide will fully explain them:—Another church is in being, but very decayed, and is solely used by the Welsh. The traveller who has time, and wishes to have a distant and luxuriant display of nature, will be amply compensated by ascending either of the eminences of the Blorenge, Great Skyr-

* Camden.

rid, or the Sugar-Loaf; the latter, is the highest, being 1852 feet above the mouth of the Gavenny which discharges its waters into the Usk, a short distance from the town; neither of them are so far situated as to be fatiguing in the journey, or difficult to accomplish.

Leaving Abergavenny you keep by the side of the ground belonging to the park of Sir HANBURY WILLIAMS, where fine groves of trees were fancifully dispersed, and the place receiving every charm from the improving hand of art; but the mouldering pillars at the entrance gate spread a gloom over the mind, as representing mutes mournfully lamenting a fallen state: behind it the Little Skyrrid rears its variegated head, embellished with every feature that can tend to delight, and perhaps exhibiting the finest specimen of adorned nature by tufted shrubs and a luxuriancy of fertility. The vale became more expanded and variegated by the fantastic Usk, which was not only abundant in water, but limpid and refreshing. Fancy had stretched forth her hand,

and combined all the beauties of art tastefully strewed on those of nature; and beautiful as the whole of the ride had been from Brecon, it was here out-done, all her store having been exhausted in presenting an expanse of the most pleasing intermingled beauties. Never did I see a country more designed for happiness, or formed to smile misfortunes away; and with a neat residence just large enough to hold one who could felicitate in the surrounding beauties, it would appear a terrestrial paradise.

At the fifth mile stone on the right is the seat of the Rev. Dr. HOOPER, with every suitable and interesting embellishment: on the left is the neat cottage of —— GREEN, Esq. Beyond it a plantation of firs by the road side bespoke the approach to a mansion of elegance, the entrance to which was through a light arch of gothic architecture, tastefully embellished. Clytha the seat of W. JONES, Esq. here presents itself, adorned with every appendage that opulence could furnish; lamenting to find its possessor from home, of

whom I wished to have requested a sight of the castle, (whose top is only seen from the house, being excluded by embowering trees,) a respectable person belonging to the establishment not only assured me permission, but requested to be my attendant: through a beautiful pleasure-ground the path is laid out with much taste and judgment, not only to render the ascent as easy as possible by its gentle curvatures, but grateful by the perfume of fragrant shrubs planted by its side; seats were stationed in different situations, and openings cut to catch pleasing views, and every fancy which genius could bestow had been applied, to render it a peculiar charm to the eye, and artfully to conceal the castle from view, 'till its nearest approach.

The structure is gothic, in a beautiful stile of architecture, situated on the summit of a hill, which displays a feature of landscape, commanding attention and admiration, formed for intellectual and serene enjoyment, contemplation, and pensiveness, with such charms as only

to be outshone by the elegance of its internal decorations; the views from it are exquisitely beautiful, and the distant hills formed an amphitheatre attired in azure mist. The residence of Dr. HOOPER, is from hence peculiarly attractive, and the grounds in its rear are so tastefully displayed, that they would not allow of any further *capability* of improvement. On descending the hill my well-informed attendant not only requested me to rest myself at the mansion, but partake of refreshment, and urged me with so much warmth, that it spoke the wishes of his own feelings, and the innate hospitality of the generous possessor of Clytha, that I could scarcely resist accepting it: receiving such peculiar attention from a total stranger, filled me with sensations of surprize, but when I reflected it proceeded from the characteristic hospitality of the country, makes language become too feeble to express my thanks; nor could I leave a place at which such marked attention was shewn, without secretly enjoying a peculiar satisfaction, although unable sufficiently to express my sense of it.

On the left is Lanarth, whose possessor is nearly allied by the ties of blood to Clytha; and indeed it likewise bespoke its kindred by a resemblance in elegance.

On reaching the summit of the hill, I could not resist casting a look back on the parts I had left; the view, though changed, had acquired (if possible) additional beauties; a more extensive sight of the meandering Usk was adding graces to the upper part of the vale, by its capricious and fantastic form; looking down the vale it seemed to take its farewell, and dignifiedly retired, gliding behind a fertilized hill peculiar in richness, and diversified with every thing that scenery admits.

> " Here lawns extend that scorn Arcadian pride,
> " And brighter streams than fam'd Hydaspis, glide;
> " Here all around the gentlest breezes play,
> " Here gentlest music melts on every spray:
> " Creation's mildest charms are here combined;
> " Extremes are only in the viewer's mind."

Leaving the direct road to Monmouth, which breaks off to the left, kept to the right to visit Ragland, whose ivy'd walls presenting every

vegetable tint, soon appeared in view, and made me pause with admiration; and its bold appearance warmed my imagination with the most lively impressions of delight by its extensive and ponderous remains, which seemed to resemble the work of supernatural agency.

Ragland, to a stranger on his journey, apparently is on low ground, but an inspection of the ruins is sufficient to do away any such idea; it will be found in reality an elevated place, and commanding an extent of view truly surprising, and as agreeable as they are diversified: indeed, as I expected no such gratification, it was the more pleasing; and from this trifling matter I had additional regret that so noble an edifice should have met such an undeserved fate. The vast grandeur of the original building, and most of the appendages, may be easily conceived, although the means of entertainment are no more; the venerable relics can now only aid the reflective mind to the distress occasioned by warfare, and heightened on the consideration of having been im-

bined in brother's blood: of all commotions to which the fate of nations is liable, not the least horrid is that of civil tumult; its rancour scarcely ever smoothed, but by the destruction of the opposite, and the spoil of every thing which had been owned by the victim to its security; nor were the excesses committed on the more peaceful, less destructive than the savage demolition of rage and barbarity, stimulated from revenge; of defence and slaughter. This place is one among the numerous proofs of the devastating principle of stormy faction, and exhibits proud remnants of popularity and firm attachment to an honest cause. In surveying the extent of the ruins, and the numerous communications from one part to another, we must naturally be surprised at the infinitude of labor exerted to form it; and we are also led to conjecture that our ancestors had a greater knowledge of binding their materials together, to withstand decay, and prove a greater difficulty for man to disjoin, than the present age is master of: I could not but observe this was in a great measure

the case here, as at Caerphilly, that to the strength of the cement we are beholden for the remains of the mansion; for the extreme difficulty of separating the stones from it, preserves the compacted masses from the pilfering hand which would long since have destroyed them; and not improbably as well from destructive inclinations, as to be subservient for their purposes of building or repairing their several dwellings.

The date of founding this building cannot be with certainty stated, and though it is said to be of no great antiquity, yet I presume this arises from the many modern ornaments discoverable in various parts of its ruins; my opinion is that a baronial residence had been long established here, enlarged upon, and constructed as circumstances required, and the owner found suitable. It has been said that it had its origin in the reign of Henry VII. but this most assuredly is an error, since we can find in history that even in the reign of Henry II. a period previous of 330 years, the castle and

manor of Ragland was given to Walter Bloet,* afterwards confirmed to Sir James Berkley, who married Bloet's daughter; but in a pedigree of the Beaufort family, inserted at length by Mr. Coxe, it begins in the reign of Richard II. and continues in direct order to the present heir; both these circumstances therefore clearly demonstrate an early origin of the building; of the occasion of its downfall, it had scarce need be said, that it was in the unhappy time of Charles I. but for an explicit account thereof, and many curious particulars relating to the family, with a description of its ancient apartments, I must recommend the traveller to a small but sufficiently explicit tract, compiled and published by Mr. Heath, of Monmouth, and which may also be had in the village; suffice it therefore to say, that these magnificent ruins are entitled to the honour of being one of the last fortresses which held out in favour of Charles I. and to be more highly considered of when it is known not to have been a castle in the strict sense of the word, but as a noble

* Dugdale.

baronial residence strengthened and defended for the purpose of loyally giving refuge to an unfortunate sovereign, and bearing the troubles consequent thereon; of the munificence or magnificence of its dignified owner it would be scarcely believed, were it not well attested on the historic page, and however unfortunate it ended still redounds to credit, and an honourable testimony of loyalty, bravery, and perseverance; and it must be satisfactory to relate, that in order to perpetuate the events of those days, and contribute to the preservation of these venerable remains, the present proprietor has strictly enjoined a forbearance to plunder, or otherwise deface them.

Those who feel an innate pleasure in being amongst ruins, and recapitulating in their mind the numerous vicissitudes to which it might have been liable, will here find ample encouragement to their reveries. The sublime appearance of the ivy-mantled walls, the beautiful south entrance, and stately chambers, are truly in a state sufficiently adverting to the

rapine of men, and slow but sure efforts of corroding time. This place has something beyond many other buildings of the nature to occupy our attention by the records of its destruction, having been so carefully preserved, and the epoch not so distant; but (in a manner) we may receive information from the relatives of the party who, in some shape or other, were employed in the business: under these circumstances Ragland will stand foremost

as a place worthy the curiosity of travellers, and will afford a fund for observation, both pleasant and striking. The reverence due to such a pile will arise not only from the situation in which it now appears with all the characters of splendour, which e'en the destroying hand of time will give; but from the part it has borne in a scene of incessant turbulence and general confusion; nor can the accidents of warfare deprive it of the glory it undoubtedly has acquired from the defence of its noble and generous commander. Nature, ever busy, has long and unceasingly been at work, and decorated the remains with a profusion and variety of elegancies; trees of almost every sort, and shrubs of numerous kinds, have been, and are still growing in the vacancies where splendid hospitality once reigned; and its once beautiful and well levelled terraces no longer to be seen, by all the soil generating luxuriant weeds; here the feathered tribes are now the inhabitants of places in which the transactions of a kingdom have been canvassed, and estimated accordingly.

" O thou, who mid the world-involving gloom,
" Sitt'st on yon solitary spire;
" Or slowly shak'st the sounding dome,
" Or hear'st the wildly warbling lyre;
" Say, when thy musing soul,
" Bids distant times unroll,
" And marks the flight of each revolving year—
" Of years, whose slow consuming power,
" Has clad with moss yon leaning tower,
" That saw the race of glory run,
" That mark'd ambition's setting sun,
" That shook old empire's tow'ring pride,
" That swept them down the floating tide;
" Say, when these long-unfolding scenes appear,
" Streams down thy hoary cheek the pity-darting tear?"

Three miles beyond Ragland on the right, is Dynastow court, which has had somewhat to do in the early concerns of the country; for I find it mentioned as being the place to which the enraged party (after the storming of Abergavenny was concluded) came and made a general carnage, of which Ranulph the Governor, and other active defenders fell the victims. This could not have been a fortress of consequence at any time, were we to judge from appearance; nor is it likely to have been otherwise than a manor-house erected in the

lumbering stile of the times, though it is stated as a castle on the decapitation of the earl of Pembroke, anno 1469, among the places he died possessed of; it came afterwards into the family of Jones, from whom it was purchased by Mr. Duberly, and is now the residence of SAMUEL BOSANQUET, Esq; of London.

At the end of three miles further I entered Monmouth, after passing a scope of that elegant scenery peculiar to South Wales, of which I know not whether to admire most the different gradations of light and shade, or brilliant or gloomy rays of the sun; all had their charms, all had their effect, and in every situation and character portrayed incessant elegancies and gratifying assemblage.

Monmouth, situated on the rivers Monnow and Wye, presents to the traveller a variety of pleasing and animating landscapes, placed nearly central among a number of eminences. There is scarce any spot from which the town does

not appear to advantage; and where beauty is deficient, singularity is prominent; the two bridges so different in construction, form a contrast as pleasing as diversified, and the one that bestrides the former, hands itself to particular notice by the venerable gateway that is seated on it; its high antiquity is very evident; and the era of its construction prior to the conquest. It is to be regretted that the numerous specimens of our forefathers' labour, should be considered so disgustful to the mo-

dern eye, and condemned to be no more; this has induced me to represent this remnant of their care, to preserve it in the memory of the curious. The elegant appearance of the tower and spire of the church, with the richness of the woods rising over each other from the silvery meandering streams, give such an effect to the scene, as at once to captivate the heart, and dispose the contemplative mind to unutterable enjoyment. The town is governed by a mayor and two bailiffs, under a charter derived from Edward VI. in the year 1549, and sends a member to parliament in conjunction with the burgesses of Newport and Usk. There is a free school in the place, founded by William Jones, who had been a haberdasher in London, and one among the fortunate number who from obscurity rose to opulence and respectability; the master has a house, and 90l. per year; the usher a house and 45l. per year. There are also almshouses for twenty persons, each of whom has 3s. 6d. per week; and the clergyman, for officiating, inspecting, &c. has a house and garden

and 105l. per year: when we consider the value of money at the time of its foundation, which was in the reign of James I. it will speak the generosity and liberality of the endower.

On the banks of the Monnow, and near the bridge, is the very ancient church dedicated to St. Thomas; almost all the features of the building indicate that its original foundation was in the Saxon æra, and from time to time intermixed with the stile of such ages as were engaged in its reparation; it is now a chapel of ease to St. Mary, (the other church,) and Tuesdays are appointed for the service. The town is independent of the county, but in the jurisdiction of the duchy of Lancaster; was originally walled round, and had four gates; there was likewise a suburb (in the latter of which was St. Thomas before-mentioned,) and excepting on the river side, was surrounded by a ditch of considerable depth. Camden says, "the town was of much importance at the "time of the conquest," previous to which it

is supposed the castle was founded, which no doubt was the residence of the lord of those parts, (some are inclined to think it was much later in its foundation and name,) John, lord of Monmouth, who was deposed (for adhering to the rebellious barons) by Henry III. However consequential it might formerly have been, and appropriated to military or benevolent purposes, but a very trifling remnant is left; and one among a multitude to silently admonish us of the futile endeavour to rear edifices to

withstand the corroding influence of insatiate time, or remain unmantled by the caprice of man; vague and indeterminate must be any elaborate attempt to describe an account of its original plan and apartments, as the various attacks it has borne, and the decay of the remainder leave nothing to entitle us to success. The first particular account of consequence relating to it is to be found during the reign of Henry III. who having a dispute with his barons, several of them joined in alliance with Llewellyn, the nominal prince of Wales; the Welsh, headed by the earl of Pembroke, surprized the English army at Grosmont, and defeated them, but neglected to profit in a proper manner by destroying its castle; and leaving it, went on with the army to Monmouth: but while the earl was with his knights reconnoitring this castle, the commander, Baldwin de Guisnes, sallied out with the Flemings and Poicterians, and charged them with such fury as had nearly proved fatal to the earl, and was only prevented by Baldwin being badly wounded, which retarded his exertions and caused

confusion; so that the army of his antagonist had time to arrive to their leader's relief. Henry on the whole was no great gainer by his efforts to control the Cambrians, for Pembroke and Llewellyn carried devastation every where with them, and procured favorable conditions on a peace: in this reign

John de Monmouth was proprietor of the castle, who resigned it to

Edward, prince of Wales; on his surrender it was granted to his brother,

Edmund, Earl of Lancaster; from whom it descended to his son,

Henry III; who dying in 1345, his son Henry, created

Duke of Lancaster, succeeded; who left two daughters, Maud and Blanch; the former dying, the property devolved on Blanch, who married

John of Gaunt, who of course enjoyed the castle, and made it his favourite residence; as did also his son who became king of England, by the title of

Henry IV. whose son,

Henry V. was born here August 9, 1387, and surnamed, in consequence, *of Monmouth*; from him

Henry VI. but on his attainder

Edward IV. had it, and granted it within five years to

William Herbert, created earl of Pembroke; but it again reverted to the crown, and became the property of

Henry VII. as a parcel of the duchy of Lancaster; but on the separation of several estates from the duchy the property has since become divided, and the castle has been in the

Beaufort family for many years, and the present duke is the proprietor.

At this castle the unfortunate Edward II. was confined, previous to his removal to Kenilworth by his infamous queen, anno 1326.

In 1646 it was taken by Oliver Cromwell's forces, but treachery had a considerable share in the business; and it is related that when Oliver himself came afterwards to Monmouth, a man by the name of Evans attempted to shoot him, but was prevented by persons near. All its high honours are now buried in the dust, and going as rapidly to oblivion as is its once celebrated castle, of which so trifling a portion remains, as leaves no traces to know its original design; the transmutations of time are visible here in the present mode of employing scites, anciently famous for purposes widely different; all hastening to the same situation with which so many similar edifices in the principality are found.

" And e'en so fares it with the things of earth
" which seem most constant: there will come the cloud
" that shall enfold them up, and leave their place
" a seat for emptiness."

William de Monemuc or Monmouth, is said to have brought over a convent of Black Monks from St. Florence, near Salmus in Anjou, and placed them first in the church of St. Cadoc, near the Castle, and afterwards in the church of St. Mary;* at the suppression by Henry VIII. it was valued at 56l. 1s. 11d. per annum. There was an hospital of the Holy Trinity, founded by John Monconuc, in 1240, and also one to St. John. The church stands on the ground where once the priory stood, and is peculiarly neat and elegant, both within and without; and the spire which is 200 feet in height, renders it a conspicuous object from whichever point it is viewed, among the surrounding enclosures; on the whole, this town is an agreeable place, delightfully situated between the rivers Monnow and Wye, and contiguous to the Trothy: over all three there are bridges, and the envi-

* D. Williams.

rons are celebrated far and near for sylvan scenes and diversified beauty; the inhabitants are numerous and exceedingly respectable, have various modes of entertainment, and sociability is a just characteristic of the place. Surrounded in every direction by the seats of the opulent, and the residences of the hospitable, altogether it is a desirable situation, and suitable to every rank in life.

Crossing the bridge which bestrides the river Wye, a lofty bank presents itself, variegated with fine coppice wood and smiling agriculture, small enclosures, and the occupation of humble industry, with a large uncultivated tract vegetating only furze, interrupted by huge masses of rock; on the summit of this hill is a summer-house called the *Kymin*, which, for variety of beautiful prospects, is said to be rivalled by few and out-done by none, forming a Panorama of upwards of an hundred miles in extent; the ascent to it has had an infinity of pains bestowed to render it, by its windings, as gentle as possible; there is an excellent road

for the convenience of carriages, with every accommodating attention of seats, placed not only to allay the fatigue of foot visitors, but to present some delightful feature of landscape; the summer-house is a circular embattled tower of two stories; in the upper apartment is every suitable appendage to render it commodious: parties either bring their cold collations, or drink tea, where proper regulations are made for the comfort of the visitors, and a small gratuity to a neat woman, to make it correspond with herself.

At the distance of sixty yards from the summer-house, is a national monument dedicated to fame, ornamented with medallions of several distinguished naval commanders, and emblematical decorations of those safeguards which are the pride and boast of every Englishman; and at the opposite extremity of the level is the Beaulieu grove, intersected with numerous shaded walks. I shall forbear enumerating a description of the views, as they are accurately and pleasingly detailed by Mr.

C. HEATH, printer, at Monmouth. The day on which I made this visit was brilliantly fine, and the azure canopy added to the tints which were decking with all the graces, undulating groves with that congenial softness peculiar to a country abounding in a sublimity of views; and the silvery stream of the Monnow was uniting with the Wye, winding through dales beautifully interlined, and hills cloathed with various foliage; entering the grove, the traces of the paths were bending in innumerable and fanciful forms, with openings cut to unfold glimpses of delight to the eye.

After wandering over its mazy windings refreshed by the cooling breezes of the shade, at the extent of one of the most remote walks, a well-dressed female was sitting in a place which seemed formed for love and contemplation; I was hastily approaching her with those respectful rules due to her sex, to share the pleasure of the scenery, and participate in the grandeur of the subject surrounding the empire of nature; but what a chill did

my feelings suffer, to see her agitated by a secret inquietude, and rising with an evident wish to avoid me, (marked with a dignity which not only demands respect, but sets limits to a love of propriety;) it bade me retire: but a few steps had scarcely been measured for that purpose, ere I felt a blush come across my cheek, as a tint of reproach for seeing a woman in affliction, without attempting to mitigate her distress; on this I approached, apologising for intruding on her solitude, and assured her it proceeded from the tumult of my feelings, causing such a conflict to learn the cause of her dejection, knowing well how to feel for the *sorrows* of others; whether my looks were written in the characters of the sincerity of my heart, I know not; but her animated fears fled, and serenity kept wandering over a beautiful face, where the bloom of the rose had yielded to the delicacy of the lily. I soon found myself imperceptibly seated by her side, her hand enclosed in mine, and, stimulated by sympathy, urging a recital of her woes by every powerful effort of language I was master of; a tear stood

trembling in her eye, as the herald of her sorrows, which she at length detailed with so fascinating a voice, that made the heart run a considerable risk while listening to her; here I must forbear, lest it may betray a confidence reposed in me, but did I arraign my heart to enquire what gave it most pleasure, it would declare being instrumental in restoring happiness to neglected virtue: having seen her to her residence, with a parting tribute, (as a harmless mode of wiping sorrow away) bade her adieu, being repaid by the gratification of my feelings.

On leaving Monmouth, I was desirous of walking by the banks of the Wye to Tintern, hearing I should be amply rewarded by the enjoyment of delightful scenery; having sent my horse round, passed over the Wye bridge, and pursued a rural foot-path turning by the course of the river, which soon brought me opposite Troy-House, a venerable seat of the Duke of BEAUFORT; its structure is not remarkable for elegance, and only claims notice from the number of its windows, convincing it

was long previous to the comforts for light being rendered contributory to additional resources of national revenue; the bed of the river was crossed by paralled ridges of rock varying the capricious course of the stream, and serving only to make it murmur discontent: the meadows I was passing were well tenanted by the lively flock and lowing herd, giving animation and a valuable interest to the scenes around: the vale soon became contracted, the Wye occupying nearly the whole space, and opening a fresh scene of pleasure; on one side soft verdure enamelled with flowers fertilizing the edge of the banks, and intermixed with the lordly lenantry of stately trees; the other also in foliated attire to the confines of the stream, presenting vernal tints of light and shade, not within the limits of fancy to conceive. Such repose seemed to reign here as could not fail to waft the imagination from the low materials of modern gratification to soar to ideal enjoyments beyond the reach of terrestrial action. A few cottages were peeping from the side of the foot-path, and with the rustling of

leaves, the singing of birds, and murmuring of the stream, filled up this romantic and soothing picture. I could not resist looking back on a view blended with variety; and the lofty spire of Monmouth church greatly elevated above the river's boundary backed by a distant range of mountains, the fore-ground beautifully decorated by a stately tree standing on the margin of the winding stream, offered a pleasing shade, and disposed the mind for powerful impressions of solitude.

On looking down the river beheld a contrast, the busy scene of Redbrook; here active industry exerts her efforts, and though essential in itself, and productive of wealth, influence, and consequence, yet can only be thought (while viewed in such an enlarged situation) to be rather an unwelcome intruder: the bustle of the iron-works, from the labourers employed in their different avocations, the vale filled with columns of dark smoke, and the silence interrupted by the noise of massive hammers echoing from the opposite shore, obliterates every plea-

surable idea resulting from sequestered spots: beyond it are Lower Redbrook's tin works all in gloom, and a mournful picture of misfortune; on enquiring a reason for the stagnation, heard it was in litigation, the very name made a *feeling* sigh escape, and lost no time in casting a look on the opposite object which was a steep ascent, variegated with wild rocks, stone quarries, and irregularities, backed and hooded with lively foliation; the vale became increased, and the hills pleasingly tufted with numerous trees, to screen the neglected house of Pilson, was the attempt of some, whose roof now appearing to be humbled to a small farm, the fate of many a manor-house, where bounty was, it is drudgery now, and carries still the vestiges of former national hospitality. Beyond and on the opposite shore is seated Bix Weir, the mansion of General Rooke, M. P. for Monmouth, a descendant from the gallant admiral of that name, to whom we are indebted for the possession of Gibraltar: I felt a double interest in beholding it, first as it was the residence of him who had been the companion and sharer of perils with my own

apple-trees intermixed; the acclivity appeared wholly covered in this surprising way, and Landego is certainly a remarkable scene among the multitude on this charming river; wood and a scanty covering of fern over the stony face, was enclosed by a lofty bank, rising in crescent form; the side of the river now became very lofty, beautifully romantic, and more foliated, its brush-wood sweeping the hanging clouds as they passed along; the carol of the birds gave a continued concert, and made nature appear to speak with unnumbered tongues, that I could not resist creating a few responses to the plaintive notes of my flute; invited by the cooling shade of an orchard by the side of the stream, I neglected to turn off at Brook Weir, in the regular path to Tintern, and I believe rather unwilling to leave the sweet windings of the transparent Wye, soon found myself beset on one side by an almost impenetrable wood, and on the other rude stones, rendered slippery from the mud (left by high tides) totally unmarked by mortal footsteps: persisting over this slippery and trea-

cherous path, in momentary expectation of a cooling in the Wye, at length was amply rewarded by the unparalleled views of Tintern's noble ruins, forming a splendid object of ad-

miration and elegance of structure to a degree of perfection, far exceeding any thing of the kind I ever saw, ornamented with shrubs, and tinted in colours peculiarly pleasing to age.

After applying to Mr. GETHIN, of the Beaufort Arms, (who keeps the key) I hast-

ened to this grand and interesting structure, with a mind filled with extreme delight, nor was it bereft of the highest gratification on beholding the west front; a stately window

with all its divisions complete, was serving as conductors to train the ivy in the most dressy form, while interstices were fostering other

small shrubs, and making the wondering eye almost transport the imagination; but my pleasure received a distressing interruption from the number of beggars who flock round, and I must acknowledge, the little given never went with so ill a grace, as I am almost ashamed to say, it was not so much from a charitable view, as to be disencumbered from their intrusion on my contemplation; never can I erase from remembrance the sensation I felt on beholding the interior of the abbey, on the opening of the western door, and how very far my expectation was exceeded; I felt lost by the elegance of the ruins in their peaceful sequestered spot, ornamented by the wonderful and bounteous hand of nature; it was truly picturesque, and kept in a state of perfection, equalled by no other desolated pile; a level, close shorn, grassy surface was giving neatness to the whole, and serving as a safeguard to the peaceful remains of those it was sheltering: no vestige of its roof was remaining; its walls richly ornamented with shrubs, and wreathing ivy

hanging in graceful garlands; on the southern side a massive breadth was spreading from the top to the bottom in the most fanciful ringlets; and the pillars and arches displaying much gothic elegance, adorned by creeping and small foliage; can I forget the east win-

dow? no—never!—and perhaps such a specimen of exquisite workmanship the world never exhibited as this, when perfect, still so beauteous now in decay; it has amazing power to fascinate the senses, but must to a certainty preclude a true conception of its original; the remaining centre bar is perfect, which when seen at a distance appears singularly taper, but on approaching is found of such a thickness as to create surprise at the deception; through this arch the richly clothed hill is strikingly grand, and gives a noble effect to the internal parts of the pile; but here my pen, conscious of its inability, drops from my hand; I take the hint, and resign the task to those gifted with the powers of fascinating language to do it justice; the day was most favorable to my visit here, and I felt exhilarated by being screened from the effects of the sun, but the feathered creation enjoyed its blessing, and were chaunting their praise: never was a situation so placed for religious retirement, and in every respect so suitable for the purposes of the fabric, and we may imagine the monks of

Tintern to express themselves in terms similar to those of the plaintive bard:

" Oh sacred solitude! divine retreat!
" Choice of the prudent! envy of the great!
" By thy pure stream, or on thy waving shade,
" We court fair wisdom, that celestial maid:
" The genuine offspring of her lov'd embrace,
" (Strangers on earth,) are innocence and peace:
" Here from the ways of men laid safe ashore,
" We smile to hear the distant tempest roar;
" Here blest with health, with business unperplex'd,
" This life we relish, and ensure the next."

Although the roof has fallen in, the interior of the building may be very well conceived: the arches and pillars of the choir are now standing, with only the marks of age and decorations of nature; and where some of the columns have tumbled, the corresponding still stand, so that a person need be at no loss for the form or ornament of the structure; the shape of the west window is yet entire, and most part of the frame work remains, nor will any hesitation ensue to pronounce the taste and beauty to have been extremely judicious and grand; the 'fond ivy' clings to the bars, and

the sides are enwrapt in the closest manner, nay, nearly the whole of this beauteous relic is, more or less, covered by masses uncommonly large of the faithful attendant on age and decay; an indistinct echo, produced by the Wye breaking over protuberances of rock which interrupt the stream, made me feel a pleasure in sitting unseen, and enjoying the pleasing pensive ideas which crouded on the mind, by viewing the objects around, where

"August and hoary, o'er the sloping dale,
"The gothic abbey rears its sculptur'd towers;
"Dull through the pile resounds the whistling gale,
"And solitude among the pillars low'rs.
"Where yon old trees bend o'er a place of graves,
"And solemn shade the ruin's sad remains,
"Where yon close ivy through the window waves,
"And, twining round, the hoary arch sustains."

The guide who attends the visitors, generally presents them with the following account of it for their perusal:—"This abbey, dedicated to "God and the virgin Mary, was founded about "the year 1131 by Walter Fitz-Richard de Clare, "lord of Caerwent and Monmouthshire. Richard

'de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, nephew to the 'founder, gave divers lands and privileges to the 'abbot and monks hereof, who were of the Cis- 'tercian order, obliging them to pray for their 'souls, and those of his and his wife's ancestors. 'Roger de Bigot, earl of Norfolk, added to these 'benefactions. It has been famous for the tombs 'and monuments of several great persons; prin- 'cipally of the aforesaid Walter de Clare; Gilbert 'earl of Pembroke, brother to the founder; 'Walter earl of Pembroke, and Marshal of Eng- 'land; and his brother Anselm, last earl of that 'family; William Herbert, earl of Pembroke, 'who being in the disputes between the houses 'of York and Lancaster, was taken prisoner in 'Banbury fight, and being beheaded, lies buried 'here.'

The above, though a short history, is nearly all that can with certainty be obtained; this, like many other places, having had its archives lost or destroyed: in all likelihood a valuable account of it shared the fate of the Ragland library in Cromwell's devastation; 'its length is

'75 yards, the breadth of the body 13 yards 'and a half, of the north aisle 6, and the south 'aisle 6;' on the whole, the visitor will find abundant gratification in viewing the magnificent pile, and cannot fail of receiving strong impressions of sorrow to witness the decay of the superb structure, the mutilated figures and monumental records scarce perceivable from the general mass; the united effects of nature and art give great scope to the flights of fancy, though propriety is no where to be unobserved, unless the circumstance of the smooth surface we tread on, should be thought an improper appendage to the surrounding walls; setting this aside, nature has made it her own, and works incessantly with her curious hand to heighten veneration; all its adornments are wonderfully attractive, and when glowing in the colour of a setting sun there are but few to equal it, none to exceed; and we may gaze with increasing admiration and delight: so charming are the surrounding scenes as to leave nothing to be wished for by a contemplative mind, and all contribute to inspire the soul with serious

thoughts, divested of the cares of the active world, and foregoing with its toils all its difficulties; amidst this desolated heap the memory adverts to previous eras, and pictures the fellowship of the religious within these walls, who to regular attendance on their profession added hospitality to the wandering, and the virtue of the sage to the familiarity of the generous: to the frivolous or gay the austerities of a monastic life must appear with great severity, and truly it required considerable resolution to adhere to principles with such apparent strictness; how far there was any inconsistent behaviour I am not enabled to say, but judging from the rules and habits which they bound themselves to continue in the practice of, and the known advantages of which the neighbourhood of monasteries reaped the benefit; one cannot but admire their institution, nor rashly condemn the whole for the bad conduct of the few; the Cistertian order, of which Tintern was an establishment, had the following routine: their dress—'a white 'cassock with a narrow scapulary, and over that 'a black gown when they went abroad, but a

'white one when they went to church; to rise 'at midnight to go to matins, which continued 'two hours and a half, after which retire to 'rest for an hour or two, then rise again to 'meditate, and sing what they call prime, then 'work in the garden for two hours more, then 'sing terce and high mass, then dinner, after 'which was half an hour recreation: during the 'rest of the day they had three separate times 'for church, to sing vespers, nones, and com-'pline; thus they could seldom or never have 'three quarters of an hour to themselves;' such being the case, we cannot be surprised at their choosing a place in profound retirement, uninterrupted by the confusion and turbulence, inseparable from towns or large associations. Nothing could be more suitable for monastic duties than this spot, where all nature assisted to inspire them, and so congenial to their desires.

"So to the dark brow'd wood, or sacred mount,
"In ancient days, the holy seers retired;
"And, led in vision, drank at Siloe's fount,
"While rising ecstacies their bosoms fired."

In the neighbourhood of this monastic edifice, and but a short distance, is the manufactory for making wire, and well worth a stranger's trouble to visit, who has not already seen such a process; the wonderful increase of iron works in this and the adjoining counties reflects great honour on the undertakers and improvers of the art, and the different purposes to which that pliable and useful metal is appropriated are innumerable. One of the essential matters is here exhibited, and carried on with considerable spirit and ingenuity; from the present mechanical mode of conducting it, not only a much larger quantity can be done in a given time, but the labour of the man is considerably eased, and the facility with which the art is conducted is amusing and gratifying; indeed, to the contrivances of men of genius by inventing and aiding the powers of mechanism, is to be attributed the surprising growth of trade to which the kingdom has arrived, and the superiority of the commodities for regularity, beauty, goodness, and cheapness, so as to

become in quality and materials the admiration of every nation: to describe with accuracy the system of the performance here under consideration is beyond my power, but no denial is given to persons desirous of viewing the whole performance from the thick iron bar to the finest wire; and the expedition used in the various departments, is not the least curious. A party of ladies having come by water from Chepstow, obligingly offered me a seat in the boat on their return to that place; and my deficiency of description of the Wye's romantic banks must be allowable, when my attention was devoted not only to the charms of their persons, but by the attractive powers of their minds. I had hitherto been rambling amidst agreeable scenes, and charmed by the company of pellucid streams, it now became eminences clothed with wood from the base to the summit; and in parts where pasture was predominant, crowded by the woolly tribe and lowing kine; then my ideas were pleased on viewing the perfections of nature, and the elegance of

art, at such times as I was offered the sight of a mansion; pleasing impressions were grafted on my mind, heightened by the frequent glooms which overspread, when enclosed between the high and waving hills; but from Tintern new objects presented themselves, and all the grand, all the awful, were multiplying on my astonished senses. My language can but ill describe the sublimity apparent in every sinuous course of the river, and the 'rude rough grandeur,' so conspicuous; the variety of their forms imagination can easily assimilate to ruins, castles, walls, &c; and where the rock is hidden, it is by the luxuriant covering of a beauteous vegetation; ledges apparently of trifling width were decorated by trees of such a size as to create no small surprise from whence nourishment could be procured to their wandering roots. Nature seemed here to put the finishing hand to her works, and convince the boasting pride of man how much superior she shines in her display; such an assemblage of scenery in all the charms of splendor made ample amends for the disco-

louring effect of the tide on Wye's pure stream; nor did the dignity of the towering, abrupt precipice, suffer from the intrusion of Severn's rolling current: all assaults baffling, what could equal the sight? nothing of art; for though in several parts the view was bounded, and sometimes abruptly, still the next turn presented additional matters for observation and admiration, and the whole course of this enchanting river seemed to me as nature's Lyceum to exhibit her beauties, capriciousness, and sublimity; every object apparently assuming a new shape, a new complexion, with every variation of the sun, whose splendid effects in some places were reflected with such power that the gazer could not immediately distinguish the object.

I could not think of leaving this country without visiting Piercefield, or having it said I passed down the Wye and neglected that famed feature of the stream; after having rode to Wynd Cliff, at the extremity of the pleasure-grounds, I sent back my horse; the day was uncommonly

calm, and all nature was gilded by the radiance of the sun, glittering on a variety of unbounded objects, and arrayed in her gaudiest dress: looking up, the meandering river was separating declivities clothed with hanging woods from the top to the bottom, and abrupt masses of towering rock bedecked with ornamenting vegetation; beneath, the Wye was circumscribing a large tract of beautiful meadows and tastefully laid-out encloures, resembling in form a horse-shoe: the view down the stream was embellished by thick wood, though broken in parts; and through these openings bold upright excrescences of rock were seen, (called, from their number, the Twelve Apostles and St. Peter's Thumb;) this is a remarkable scene, and the abruptness of their appearance is peculiarly pleasing; indeed, there is no end to the fancies of nature, and where she is not really useful, she is diverting. From one view we perceive the Wye as five distinct bodies of water; one is bathing the rock on which Chepstow castle is seated; and the rest are obstructed from the sight, as one whole, by

intervening lofty cliffs or bold heights clothed with a profusion of luxuriant wood; passing Chepstow, it is seen in serpentine windings until it reaches the rapid Severn, and unites to separate the adorned hills of Gloucestershire and Somersetshire. A great part of Wiltshire serves to form a distant view, observable and pleasing. Here is such an assemblage of beauty and variety, that there is no fixing the attention to one particular spot for any length of time, but attractions

elsewhere, and of equal claim to notice, will most assuredly force themselves on you.

After having attempted a drawing of this enchanting view, I soon found how deficient it was in picturesque effect, from my too great elevation above the objects; and, disgusted with my performance, shut my book, overwhelmed by a cloud of delightful melancholy, which was pleasingly dispelled by the unexpected appearance of some gentlemen to whom I was known, who had come hither with the like intention of perambulating the walks. At their request I joined the party, attended by a person with a bugle horn; this was an unlooked-for addition, nor did I ever hear the effect of sound so long in its decrease, and from other situations reverberating in such numerous replies from rock to rock, fading and softening to the lowest whisper. The walks are cut on the brinks of the cliff, forming the most delightful labyrinths, with alcoves and numerous resting places, each unfolding an infinity of rich scope, and imbibing the perfuming fragrance from rich vales below, while waving woods, broad

white-faced rocks, and mountain-tops, with streams and villages, are all one scene of magnificence and delight. All this owes its origin, as an improved place, to Valentine Morris, who inherited it as a paternal estate; and 1752 may be dated as the era when the peculiar beauties of the place became attractive, from his taste and industry: although the place was inhabited for 200 years previous, yet its elegance and advantages were not perceived, or, if known, not attended to. Pity must cast a covering over the blemishes of its worthy introducer, and the affection of all ranks value the name of the man, and the humanity of his heart. This place is now the property of W. Wells, Esq. who is making considerable additions to the mansion; and, no doubt, will render these scenes as interesting as any of the numerous princely abodes for which this kingdom is famous.

I now returned to Chepstow, which is advantageously situated for navigation and trade, being only a little more than two miles from the Severn Sea or Bristol Channel; and the several vessels

afloat and on the stocks warrant the idea of considerable traffic being carried on. Leland seems inclined to think that the place has arisen from Caerwent: his words are, "A great lykely-"hood ys, that when Carguent began to decay, "then began Chepstow to flourish, for yt stand-"eth far better, as upon Wy there ebbing and "flowing by the rage coming out of Severn, so "that to Chepstow may cum greate sheppes." The name implies a Saxon origin, and undoubtedly this town has been used as a navigable depot from their time: it is now in a flourishing state, and has a trade to Norway, Russia, and Oporto; it is certainly advantageous in one respect, which is, the depth of the river, capable of floating ships of 700 tons burthen; and its contiguity to Bristol may be one, and the chief, reason of its not having a greater share of importation. It sends large quantities of timber to the royal dock-yards, and also iron, bark, cyder, &c. to foreign ports. A vessel regularly sails for Bristol every Tuesday, and returns on Thursday or Friday. The bridge which connects this place with the opposite shore, is of timber: one half

supported by stone piers, the other by wooden; but in the centre a large one of stone separates the two counties, and each side repairs its own; the construction is similar to that at Caerleon, and on passing over it at low water, the effect is truly tremendous from the great depth to the river. The present church stands on the scite of an old priory, of which the edifice is now a part: the curious will find great delight from the west door, exhibiting such a fine specimen of Saxon workmanship, and indeed, the whole structure is an elegant piece; but the principal matter to excite attention in Chepstow, is the remains of its castle, of which, though a large part has fallen to decay, or been appropriated to other uses, yet a large portion, tolerably well taken care of, still remains: having shared with its brethren the troubles of all the broils this country has undergone, we cannot be surprised at the variety of forms, ornaments, and architecture, which it exhibits, every possessor adding or altering, as fancy or circumstances suited: its gateway has a venerable appearance, and perhaps is the most perfect of the whole pile; it is seated on a high

and perpendicular rock, commanding the river, and overlooking a large tract of country, from whence it seems impregnable, and assumes a dignity in consequence.

"High on the rock (which casts a dark'ning shade
"Around the craggy bank) the castle rears
"Its crumbling turrets: still its towering head
"A warlike mien, a sullen grandeur bears."

Few places have been more the subject of controversy than Chepstow Castle, as to its original name; and considerable pains on both sides have been bestowed to substantiate the argument; some calling it Strigul, others Chepstow. There is not far off a ruin of a castle, bearing the name of Strigul, but whether, on the forsaking of that in early days, this assumed the appellation, is hard to determine. The Norman seems to have taken care of the pile, and with the usual decorations did not neglect convenience; the apartments were numerous, and of considerable size, and the whole strongly defended by the accustomed mode of the time; the walls exhibit specimens of hardness and mixt materials; and Roman bricks constituted a part, which has

given rise to many conjectures, (but these most probably were brought from Caerwent,) from which an opinion has been entertained that it owes its date to that nation, though no coins, or other materials have been discovered; and numerous other evident proofs set aside the probability of their having any concern in the structure.

The general appearance of the castle is Norman, and Wilhelminus Comes is mentioned as builder of it when this part of the kingdom came under their conquest. In the reign of Henry I. it became the property of Gilbert Strongbow, earl of Pembroke, and by continued descent is now the property of the Duke of BEAUFORT. The most remarkable era of it was at the troubles of Charles I. having been reserved on the part of the king, it was compelled to surrender to the parliament's forces under colonel Morgan; it was afterwards surprised and retaken for the royalists, by Nicholas Kemys, in whose possession it was besieged by Cromwell in person, without effect: on his departure he entrusted the conduct of the siege to colonel Ewer, who, with

a small detachment of artillery, seven companies of foot, and four troops of horse, continued the siege till the want of provisions necessitated its brave defenders to capitulate; they refusing to surrender whilst any prospect of defence or escape encouraged them: but that hope was wrested from them by a soldier of the parliament's army swimming across the river, and cutting away the boat by which they meditated their escape. Sir Nicholas Kemys was slain during the arduous endeavour to serve his royal master: and commanding a force only of 160 men, reflects high honor on his name.

A tower in this celebrated place became afterwards the prison of Henry Marten, one of the judges who sat on the trial, and condemned his sovereign to death. He, however, escaped the fate due to a regicide, which several of his brethren shared, by losing their lives. The several accounts of the rigor he suffered are erroneous; and the authors most to be relied on all unite in the clemency of his imprisonment, being allowed liberty to a certain extent

without the walls, and even was noticed by, and visited, the family of St. Pierre, until his traiterous language compelled that patriotic family to forbid him their hospitable roof. As to his conveniences, spectators need only visit the tower, and they will find many remains of matters consistent only with a superb mansion; and I believe many persons of property, and liberty too, cannot boast of such a liberal and delightful situation. This famed person remained here for 20 years; he died suddenly at his dinner, aged 78, and was buried in Chepstow church-yard, where is his monument; and an epitaph written by himself, may be seen.

Leaving Chepstow after passing over its wooden bridge, ascended a steep hill, until I reached the turnpike-gate, when, turning to the right, took the road for the Old Passage; here the view unfolded a beautiful, rich, and animated prospect. In front, the Wye winding up to the town of Chepstow; its surface nearly obscured by the busy employ of a maritime port, and the ivy-embattled walls of its castle were strikingly

pleasing: in few words it may be said that, from Chepstow, the road being on a narrow neck of land, exhibits most features that can give landscape a beautiful appearance where water has the chief display.

Detached from the town two houses are peculiarly attractive, from their situation, elegance, and neatness, and that on the left is the mansion of T. FIDELL, Esq. M. P. for Boston. At the extent of a mile and a half, reached the Passage; the views are extensive and beautiful, presenting the forest of Dean, Robinhood Hill, (under which is the city of Glocester, &c.) At the mouth of the Wye, which is only one field from Beachley (or the passage-house,) are the ruins of an old chapel receiving daily encroachments from that stream and the Severn; little of it now remains, and those bones once consigned to consecrated earth, no longer have soil to protect them. In the field just spoken of, many coins are said to have been found and ascertained to have been Roman, but my repeated enquiries were not able to discover who

had any of them; it also bears a tradition of a battle having been fought on the spot. The breadth of the Severn at Beachley is one mile, and the same rules are to be observed respecting the tides here, as at the New Passage; there being scarcely five minutes difference in the gradation of the stream. The Aust cliff, under which you land, is remarkably grand, particularly at high water; it is a bold elevation of about 300 feet, composed of a red clay interspersed with narrow strata of the whitest alabaster, representing in some places cement in rude masonry; there are also carbonate of lime with pyrites, and sulphate of lime,—carbonate of lime with pyrites and crystals of lime,—dazzling spars of sulphate of lime,—sulphate of strontiane,—mundic, &c.

A pleasant walk on the brink of the cliff will lead to the beach on the other side, and each step unfolds an assemblage of that characteristic landscape, (I had reluctantly left), beautifully combined and highly enriched by woodlands, making fancy appear extravagant in

her sublimities of wood, water, hill and dale: this is supposed to have been one of the Roman stations, but by the most diligent search I could not observe the least traces of any work having been thrown up, though nature had offered a situation unparalleled, and had partly began a protection; but this cannot be any disproof of the Romans not occupying these heights, as the Severn has and is considerably encroaching on the cliff, so that the part probably once in their use, is now become mingled with its oozy beach.

A singular story is related of the place :— "When Edward the elder lay at Aust Clive, the "heights of Beachley (the opposite shore) was "occupied by Leolin, a prince of Wales; the "latter being summoned to cross the Severn to "a conference with the king, he refused to "obey, Edward therefore went over to Leolin, "who, on seeing the king in the boat, dis-"robed himself, and leaping breast-high in the "water, said, 'Most wise king, your humility 'has conquered my pride, and your wisdom

'triumphed over my folly, mount upon that 'neck which I have so foolishly exalted against 'you, so that you enter into that country which 'your goodness has this day made your own:' "then taking him upon his shoulders he made "him sit upon his robes, and joining hands, "did him homage.' The above story was recorded by Walter Mapes, who wrote 500 years previously to Camden.

Leaving Aust psssage house, at the distance of about three miles reached the road by which I came at the early part of my journey; the smooth surface of the Marsh common was charmingly contrasted by the wooded eminence of Black Horse Hill, scattered with interesting objects uniting to render the scene inexpressibly delightful. When I before saw it, much of Henbury was obscured by rain, now it was glowing by a brilliant sun, adorning the rich display of nature and art. On reaching the hill above Westbury, I involuntarily stopt, and found myself lost in a fascinating stare, as the view presented not only all that was beautiful, but

all that was great,—hills and dales were scattered with towns and villages—noble mansions, or other elegant edifices ornamented by productions of fertility, and as pleasingly dispersed. To trace the track of this dazzling scene by the effects of my pencil was impossible, and still more so to describe by the powers of my pen: the variety of beauties setting all language at defiance, apparently placed as candidates for preference; in short, it would justify the highest panegyric the power of rhetoric could bestow.

On crossing Durdham-down beyond the turnpike gate went on the summit of St. Vincent's Rock; from this elevated spot all nature seemed dressed in her gayest attire, and every thing was from hence seen, among her richest presents, all conspiring not to be out-done by any other possible display: immediately under the eye the Avon was winding between the bold precipices, and bearing with a superior pride several large ships on their return from foreign coasts; innumerable other vessels were forming the procession, some of them having bands, the melody

of which was rebounding musically sweet among the barriers of the majestic and romantic rocks or hanging woods crowned with stately trees: the walks on the borders of the stream were crowded by several groupes of figures, many of whom were sincerely welcoming the return of their friends, and wafting their sincerity by the wavings of their handkerchiefs. Nature surely designed the event as a competition to all rivalship; and the animated prospect, though it disturbed my feelings, triumphed in causing me to confess the superiority over all I had seen, and yield the palm to CLIFTON, where it may be truly said,

" Whate'er of sweet, of simple, of sublime,
" Of glade to traverse, or of heights to climb;
" Of rocks incumbent, or with vales below,
" Or stream majestic in meanderings flow;
" Whatever charm in other scenes we see,
" Nature, O CLIFTON, here combines in thee!"

APPENDIX.

I Could not take a farewell of this work, without retracing those historic sites famed for Roman prosperity, when it shone so resplendent in this country, to subjoin any information that might have been discovered since my visit last year.

Caerwent first claimed the object of my attention; with additional sorrow I beheld the ravages made by all-destroying time, from unprotecting care; and that little of the tessellated pavement, which afforded me a representation, was now no more; silent regret made me wander over every piled heap with inquisitive research, in the hope of rescuing from a similar fate any other specimen of that nation, whose genius and ability not only commanded respect, but received the homage of the Britons, for softening their manners and teaching them the arts of civilized life. At length a small portion was discovered; pleased with the hope, I hastened to the proprietor, who gave me permission, on assuring him

no fruit-tree was on it; but disappointment soon attended my exertions, as only a small part of uninteresting character remained. The rest (I learned) having been mattocked up about 15 years since; on expressing my surprise, the person added, " In this orchard, Sir, there is a tessellated pave-" ment far more beautiful than the one so long the object " of admiration, but, on being discovered, immediate orders " were given to have it filled in, and two choice trees " planted over it, to guard it from modern eyes!" Words in common use must change their meaning, to express the variety of feelings this information gave birth to.....

My success was more favourable at Caerleon, where I procured a scarce and interesting coin of the emperor Hadrianus, who (being the first monarch that visited the acquired dominion of Britain) had it struck on his return, commemorative of its security.

No. I, represents a sepulchral CIPPUS, found five feet below the surface, which was obligingly procured for me by the Rev. Mr. EVANS, (knowing I am desirous of collecting and concentrating in one receptacle all the antiquities of the country:) the difficulties attendant on decyphering Roman inscriptions from the usual abbreviations, induced me to apply to the Rev. Mr. LEMAN, of Bath, from a knowledge of his deep-sciencèd abilities, which rank so distinguishedly pre-eminent; I shall, therefore, avail myself of that gentleman's friendship, and insert his obliging elucidation:

Julii Licii
Julius Caterius
filius
vixit annos xxv.
Optio,
animo libenti
faciendum curavit.

Mr. LEMAN adds, " Whether the name was Licius or Livius, or the name Caterius, *is of little consequence,* and must be always doubtful; but the office of the person of Sub-Centurion, (or Optio,) who placed this monument to the memory of his friend, is very clear."

No. II, is the fragment of a stone, on which is the representation of *Animo Libens Trajanus,* but to what intent Trajan's willing mind was employed on this occasion, we are to lament, its mutilated state precludes all possibility of conjecture.

No. III, is part of a brick two inches in thickness, with two pointed edges resembling the teeth of a saw; in the centre in relievo, is LEGIIAVG: denoting the work of the Second Augustan Legion; what was the original use or design, is difficult to determine, as all histories of Roman Antiquities (that I can find) bear no description or resemblance of its similitude.

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF LANDAFF;

IN A LETTER FROM

W. WOTTON to BROWNE WILLIS, Esq.

THE cathedral church of Landaff, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, stands in a bottom on the north east side of a pleasant village, near the banks of the river Tâf, from whence it takes its name. The church is entire, as having no cloisters about it, or any other buildings, formerly standing within the church-yard: at the west end there are two towers, one to the south, which seems to be as old as the church, which is open within from the top to the bottom. This tower, which now looks ruinous, had formerly coarse battlements at the top, most of which are down, with four small pinnacles at the corners. The tower on the north side was built by Jasper, (created duke of Bedford, anno 1485) son of Owen Tudor, by Catherine, daughter of Charles VI. king of France, who married her after the decease of Henry V. This is a handsome tower, and is still in pretty good repair, all but the battlements at top, which were elegant enough, and entire, till the great storm Novem-

ber 27, 1703, which threw down two of the corner pinnacles, and a good part of the battlements; the wind being southerly, threw the stones into the church-yard. This tower, which is ascended by 140 free-stone steps, is in height, from the lower moulding at top to the bottom, 29 yards and a half; the battlements are 8 feet deep; the square at top is 21 feet and a half north and south, and 22 feet east and west; and at bottom, on the west side, (where are three handsome windows over one another,) it is 29 feet long. The front of the church to the west, between the towers at bottom, is 30 feet: the great west door, which stands in the middle between the said towers, is 7 feet and a half broad, and 10 feet high, and has over it an image of a bishop in his pontifical habit, which the people of the place erroneously suppose to be Bp. Urban, who lived in Henry the Ist's time, and built the church that is now standing. Mr. Edward Lhywd (the worthy Author of the Archæologia Britannica) who took a draught of it when he was at Landaff, in his travels through Wales, took it (as it most probably was design'd) to be the image of St. Dubritius, who is reckoned to have been the first bishop of this see. Over the door are three long narrow windows; the middlemost of which is 20 feet high, and 4 feet broad; and the side ones are 16 feet high, and 3 feet broad: above them are seven niches of free-stone; that in the middle is the longest; those on each side, which exactly correspond to each other, being three in number, are higher one than another, the outermost being the shortest. The middle nich was once a window, but it is now walled up: over these is a statue of a king in a nich, supposed to be Henry I. who then reigned.

In the old tower are five windows, two under two, three feet and a half broad, and 9 feet high a-piece; and under them a fifth, 9 inches broad, and 7 feet high. In the north corner, at the west end, is a stair-case, by means of which there is a communication to the other tower and the leads of the church: the height of this tower is 28 yards; it being 22 yards to the top of the pediment, and 6 yards above. At about 40 yards' distance from this tower, South-West from the church, stood heretofore an old tower, which, as appears by the ruins, was 42 feet square; the door, which stood south of the church is 13 feet high, and 7 feet broad: in it, as 'tis reported, there formerly hung a very large bell, called St. Peter's Bell; which being taken down by Jasper Duke of Bedford, was conveyed to Exeter, and there exchanged for five bells, which were hung up in Jasper's tower.

As we go into the church, in the church-yard, not far from the west door, is an altar monument, about a foot and half from the ground, set up in memory of Dr. Jones, a civilian, late chancellor of this diocese; who was eminent also for his skill in physic, which he sufficiently shewed in a learned discourse, in Latin, of intermitting fevers; and also in another discourse concerning Opium, written in English; which are books very much esteemed by the gentlemen of that profession. His epitaph is this:

Hîc jacet Venerabilis Vir JOHANNES JONES, L. L. *D. hujus Dioeceseos Cancellarius, qui Deo reddidit animam* XXII *Die Augusti, Anno Salutis* MDCCIX. *Ætatis suæ* LXV°.

We descend into the church by seven or eight steps. The towers within are 18 feet long: from thence to the screen that divides the nave from the choir, is 91 feet and a half; so that the whole length of the nave, from the west door to the screen, is about 110 feet. On each side of the nave there are four pillars, exclusive of those that join to the screen, and to the towers; in all, including the pilasters that join to the west end, and those that support the choir part, and extend to the high altar, there are on each side, comprehending the length of the whole church, eleven; but this will be better understood by the draught.

The breadth of the nave, from the footing of the pillars is 29 feet; the pillars at the bottom are six feet square; the two side-aisles are 15 feet broad a-piece; so that the whole breadth of the church is about 65 feet.

As far as the first four arches to the westward, the roof within consists only of *couples*, (as they are called in this country,) to which within are framed circular beams of timber, laid parallel to one another; which is the common way of laying of roofs of churches in South Wales: from thence to the upper end of the choir it was formerly cieled with wainscot, which was painted; but the roof being ruinous, the cieling was taken down, in order to repair the timber some years ago, which makes all that part look very naked: on each side of the nave, over the pillars, are twelve windows, by two and two, with five partitions between. The distance between each pillar at bottom is twelve feet from base to base: there are six

arches in the nave, on each side of which the first joins to the tower, and the sixth to the screen of the choir. The heighth of the wall, over the pillars, from bottom to top, is 54 feet; from thence to the top of the compass-work may be about ten feet more; so that the heighth and breadth (as in several other cathedrals) seem equal: the side aisles which answer within one to another, are 30 feet high.

Upon the pavement in the nave, which is of stone, though a very sorry one, not far from the west door, is a grave stone, on which there is a crozier delineated, with this inscription round it:

Hic jacet Magistr Johannes Lloyd, cujus anime propitietur Deus, Amen.

Close to the second pillar on the south side is the font: against the fourth pillar on the same side, was formerly a pulpit, which was taken down in the great rebellion.

Against the fourth pillar on the north side, and so on to the fifth, stands the monument of Sir William Matthew, of Aradyr, in Glamorganshire, about one mile from Landaff: its length, including the palisade round it, is sixteen feet and a half; its breadth nine feet and a half. It is an altar monument, on which lay the images of a man and a woman, curiously wrought in alabaster; the man is bare-headed, in complete armour, with a coat of mail under his corslet, and a collar of SS.

over it: his gauntlets are by his right leg, and a sword cross; at his head is a lion, and a monk with beads in his hand: his helmet is his pillow; in his left hand is his dagger, and a sword at his right: on his left side lies his wife, in the same recumbent posture, habited after the manner of the time; the lappets of her head clothes are laced, and the lace gilt. The inscription which is on the edge of the monument is this:

Orate pro Animabus Willielmi Matthew Militis, qui obiit decimo Die Martij, A. D. M.CCCCC°, vicesº VIII. & etiam Jenette uxoris ejus que Deo reddidit Spiritum.....Die Mensis..... A. D. Mill^mo. CCCCC. tricesº. quorum animabus propitietur Deus Amen.

On the west side of the monument are images in three niches: in the middle is an escutcheon, supported by a man and a woman; the arms are worn out, but seem to have been quarterly. On the south side are seven images; every second image holds an escutcheon; but the arms, which were originally painted, are not discernible. Easterly, at the feet, are four images, each with an escutcheon as before. On the north side are seven images, as on the south. On some of the escutcheons may be discerned three chevrons gules, on a field argent, which are said to be the arms of Jestin-ap-Gwrgant, who betrayed his country to the Norman knights, who came hither with Robert Fitz-Hammond, in the reign of William Rufus. Some of the images at the head are in armour; on the sides and at the feet, with beads. The whole is wrought in alabaster, and (if we consider the time) is very curiously done.

Near this monument, towards the west, is a grave-stone, on which was formerly a brass plate, with an inscription in the Welsh language; half of the plate is lost, the other half has been preserved by the reverend and worthy Mr. Francis Davies, resident vicar-choral of this church, who did me the favor to communicate it to me; to whom also I am exceedingly obliged for his kind information in whatsoever I had occasion to consult him. What is preserved of the inscription is as follows:

Pedwar Igain glan . . . . . .
Pymtheg kant yr h . . . . . .
Y Corff mwynaf S . . . . . .
O Dduw daeth Angeu . . . . . .
Willmm Prys ai . . . . . .
O Ddaw y bawb . . . . . .

IN ENGLISH THUS,

" Fourscore lusty . . . . . .
" Fifteen hundred and . . . . . .
" The gentlest Body . . . . . .
" From God comes Death . . . . . .
" William Price did . . . . . .
" From God is all . . . . . .

The tradition is,—That a person of distinction, who lived in the mountains, having a desire to be buried in the mother-church, or, as they call it, *Mam-Eglwys*, was carried thither by eighty men, who relived one another by turns till they

came to Landaff: it is said likewise, that there were 3500 persons that followed him to his grave. When this man was buried is not known: this however will, in some measure, lead us to fill up what is wanting in this inscription. In the first line, if *Dynion* be added to the *Pedwar Igain glan,* it will signify *eighty brisk or lusty fellows. Glan,* in Welsh, is properly *clean.* It signifies sometimes *fair. Dur glan* is *clean water. Merch glan* a *fair maid.* Metaphorically, it is used for *Holy*; as *Yspryd glan,* the *Holy Ghost.* Here *glan* applied to *Dynion* or *Dyn,* (i. e. *Man,* or *Men*) may denote *beauty,* and that, when it is in youth, generally takes in *strength. Pymtheg Kant* is *fifteen hundred,* if *h* .... stands there for *hugain,* as probably it does, then the three thousand five hundred who attended at the burial, are compleat; for *pymtheg cant a'r hugain,* is *three thousand five hundred.* In the third line, the *S*.... seems to be the first letter of the name of the man that was buried; *Sion,* is *John,* in Welsh, and there is room enough for *Sion ap Evan,* or the like. William Price was in all likelihood the name of the poet that made this epitaph; for the British bards do now, and did anciently, put *ai cant (cecinit)* at the end of their compositions, as *Sion ap Gruffydd ai cant. Mredydd ap Madawg ai cant. John Griffith,* or *Meredith Maddocks, sung so* or *so.* So much for this inscription; I go on now to the rest of the church.

The is nothing remarkable in the north aisle till we come to the choir, except an elegant mural monument cut in black marble near the choir, which, at a distance, seems to consist of a table enclosed within two fluted marble pilasters, beautified

with angels and other ornaments; whereas the whole work, both inscription and decorations, are all cut into the marble itself without any sort of relief.

THE INSCRIPTION UPON THE TABLE IS THIS:

In Memory of Florence *the Wife of* William Herbert, *of the* White Friars *in* Cardiff, *Esq. who departed this Life* Oct. *the* 15th, 1709, *aged* 40 *Years.*

In this north aisle, near the west end, is a door, commonly called S. Teilaw's Door, through which, before the Reformation, dead bodies were carried into the church to be buried, it being looked upon as meritorious to carry them that way.

To the east of S. Teilaw's Door, over against the sixth pillar, is another small door, which they call the Prebendary's Door. Between those two doors are two empty niches in the wall, in which there formerly seem to have been monuments and effigies of persons. The windows in the north aisle do not answer to those in the south, and there are five irregular windows, in that part of the north aisle, which reaches from the west end to the break, that is over the door of the chapter-house which is on the south.

The consistory court and the chapter-house join to the south aisle. The consistory court is near the old western tower; it is a tolerable good room, 15 feet square in the clear within, with one window six feet broad and four feet high, and two other lesser ones over that, one foot three inches broad, and three

feet high apiece. The door that goes into it out of the south aisle is of free-stone arched. Between the consistory court and the tower, is one window 10 feet high and eight feet broad. From the consistory court to the chapter-house there are five handsome uniform windows in the south aisle, eight feet broad and 15 feet high. From the body of the church on this side, to the leads of the south aisle, is 26 feet six inches. The square of the chapter-house on the outside is 36 feet; the diameter of the pediment about eight feet. To the east, in the church-yard, is a stair-case, which leads up to a room over the chapter-house, in which there is a school. On the body of the church on that side are 23 battlements; on the south aisle, between the old tower and the chapter-house, 12; beyond that to the end of the south aisle, seven. The length of the south aisle on the outside, including the old tower, from west to east, may be divided thus: to the pent-house, or half roof, (as it is called in this country) it is in length 14 yards; the pent-house takes up two yards more; the consistory court seven yards; thence to the porch, nine yards; the porch three yards and one foot; thence to the chapter-house, 16 yards. The chapter-house itself takes up eight yards six inches. The remaining part of the south aisle is 16 yards and one foot; the length of the whole is 75 yards, two feet, six inches: so much for the south aisle without.

There is nothing within till we come to the choir, except a door of a porch which is exactly against the Prebendary's Door in the north aisle. The porch is within in the clear, in length seven feet and a half, in breadth six feet nine inches.

Each of these aisles are in breadth, from the footing of the pillars on each side to the outward wall, 11 feet and a half.

The choir begins from the seventh pillar, and reaches to the eleventh; its breadth is exactly the same with that of the nave, and is divided by a screen from the nave and the side aisles. The stalls on the north side are 32 feet long, from the west end of the screen. On the south side the length of the stalls is 27 feet nine inches. The breadth of the choir, north and south, is 32 feet. The order and inscriptions of the stalls is thus: on the right side, as one goes into the choir out of the nave on the west end, are these:—

Episcopi,
Thesaurarij,
Præcentoris,
Faire-Well, alias M^ri. *Clark,*
Faire-Water, alias *Gulielmi Jones.*

ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

Preb. de Cayre,
Preb. S^ae *Crucis,*
Vicars Choral:

ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE DOOR.

Archidiaconi,
Cancellarij,
Preb. de Langwm.
Preb. de Warthacwm.
Preb. S^ti *Nicholai,* alias M^ri *Mayo.*

ON THE NORTH SIDE.

Preb. S^ti *Dubritij,* alias *Dris, Lysons,*
Preb. S^ti *Andreae*
Vicars Choral.

At the end of the stalls on the south side, is a void space three feet and a half long, after which is the bishop's throne, built by Marshall, in Edward IV's. time. It is six feet long and five feet broad. Though the beauty of it is pretty much lost by length of time, yet it appears to have been, when it was first made, a curious piece of work. The back of the throne that fronts the choir is painted, and was covered with lamp-black during the great rebellion; but upon the restoration of king Charles II. the black was taken off, and the first ornaments again appeared. If we look upon it from the south, we see on the right hand the bishop praying to the blessed Virgin, who is ascending into Heaven with her hands in a praying posture, supported by seven angels, one under her feet, and three on each side; out of the bishop's mouth proceeds a label inscribed thus: *O Virgo scandens sis cœlica pandens.* On each side is an angel, who seems to have musical instruments to welcome her to Heaven. At the bottom is another angel over against the bishop who holds up his hands.

The bishop's throne joins to the ninth pillar. Beyond it is a small door that opens into the south aisle, over against the door of the chapter-house. At the bishop's throne there is a large half pace, from whence there are four steps, with half paces between every step leading up to the altar. Beyond the door that goes to the chapter-house there are two seats, and behind them, in a nich in the wall, lies a bishop in his *Pontificalibus,* in a recumbent posture, in free-stone. They told me it was St. Teilaw's tomb; but the work does not seem to be

Marshall

above 400 years old; and besides, the present church was built several ages after St. Teilaw's death. However, it is very probable it might be erected to his honour by some of his successors, and that here might have been an ancienter monument.

From the throne to the rails is 28 feet three inches, from thence to the altar nine feet six inches. Within the rails are three plain grave-stones of free-stone; on the outwardmost of which, lying toward the south, is this inscription round the edge:

HUGO LLOYD, *Landavensis Episcopus obiit septimo Die Mensis* Junij *An. Dom.* 1667. *Anno Ætatis suæ* 78, *Annoque Consecrationis suæ septimo.* In the middle part are the arms of the see, viz. *Two Crosiers in Saltire with three Mitres in Chief.* Under these arms is written, *He hath dispersed abroad and given to the Poor, his Righteousness remaineth for ever.* After that are his own arms, which are, *A Cheveron between three Dragons Heads erazed.* To the north of this, in the middle, is a stone for his wife, with only *RESURGAM* upon it, and under that *Anno Dom.* 1660.

Joining to it is a third stone laid for Bishop Davies, thus inscribed:

Hic jacet Reverendus in Christo Pater Franciscus *permissione Divinâ hujus Ecclesiæ Episcopus post Restaurationem secundus, qui ad Dominum Domini Die redijt Martij* 14°; 70mo *Ætatis*

Anno, Consecrationis 8vo. *& Salutis* 167½. *In Jejuniis frequens. Ultimo Ore semper Vita prædicavit. Quadragesimalem hic vivens vitam, Quadragesima hinc ad Vitam transiit eternam.* Underneath are the arms of the see, which are differently blazoned from those upon the grave-stone of bishop Lloyd, namely, *A Sword between two Keys in Saltire, with three Mitres on a Chief.*

Without the rails, on the north side of the altar, lies a bishop, carved in free-stone, with a bold relief, without any inscription. And upon the third half pace as you go up, is another bishop in his robes, without any inscription likewise. The first of these is guessed to be for St. Dubritius, the first bishop; and the other might probably be for bishop Bromfield, who lies buried in this church; except St. Teliau's, on the opposite side, is mistaken for him, which it should seem to be by the age.

The altar-piece, which is of free-stone, was made in bishop Marshall's time. It looks well still, though the colours are exceedingly faded. What we first see, is a row of niches, 11 in number, painted with roses and hyacinths interchangeably. The centers of the roses and the little knops of the stems, with the flowers of the hyacinths, are gilt. The roses are white, which confirms the tradition of its being made by bishop Marshall, since the white rose was the device of the house of York, which was never (as I believe) used singly in any public decorations of building, except in the reigns of Edward IV. and Richard III. and then it was a proper compliment to his patron, Edward IV. under whom he was preferred.

Under these 11 niches, is a row of eight niches, painted in fresco, exactly like the former. At each end of these painted ones, are three real niches, painted also in the same manner. Within these are two little ones, with a pilaster between; the ground-work throughout, both in the fresco and the real niches, is interchangeably blue and red, and the ornaments over every nich are gilt. At each end is a door which leads into the vestry, painted like all the rest. Above the altar-piece are two rows of large niches, in which formerly have been images. In both rows the middlemost nich is larger than the rest, and on each side are two lesser ones. The two largest niches probably contained the images of our Lord and the blessed Virgin; and the other twelve were for the twelve apostles: under the two large niches are the ten commandments, written with gold letters, within a frame; over all is a handsome free-stone window.

The first thing we see on the north side of the choir, as we go down from the altar, is bishop Marshall's monument. It stands in the wall, between the 9th and 10th pillars, and is of the altar kind. He is placed in a recumbent posture, with his crosier and mitre, and pontifical robes. In the wall are his arms impal'd with those of the see. The arms of the see here are, *Sable a Sword and two Keys in Saltire,* Or, *on a Chief,* Vert, *three Mitres of the Second.* His own arms are, *Parted per Cheveron in Fess,* Or *and* Vert, *between a* ⅋ Sable *below, and a Faulcon,* Or, *above.* At the feet are the cross, nails, ropes, and other instruments of the Crucifixion, carved in free-stone upon the wall. The work of this monument is

very good, and savours of that time, when arts began to revive. The capital ℙ of the black, or Gothic kind, which is in the arms, which are also (as I remember) upon the bishop's throne, puts it out of doubt to whom this monument belongs; for there is no inscription whereby we may be otherwise informed.

As we go farther down on the same side, at the distance of 24 feet nine inches from the rails, stands a pulpit; and between that and bishop Marshall's tomb, is a door that leads into the north aisle, opposite to the door that leads into the chapter-house. The organ loft is over the stalls on the north side of the choir; there are in it some shattered remains of an organ within a wooden case, with some of the pipes lying loose and disordered in the case; it was formerly given to this church by my Lady Kemysh, of Cefn Mabley, in Glamorganshire, (grandmother to sir Charles Kemysh, who now possesses that estate) after the reign of king Charles II. So much for the choir.

In the south aisle, after one goes up as high as the screen, there is a partition, wherein is a small door which leads into what was once a small chapel: it seems to have been once undivided from the rest of the aisle. Its length is the distance between the 9th and 10th pillars, to which there are two pilasters in the outer wall, exactly corresponding; it is arched over head with free-stone. In the middle, within this chapel, is the door that leads into the chapter-house.

The chapter-house, (which is east and west, 21 feet, south and north 23 feet) is paved with free-stone, cut much of the size of our common paving bricks: it is arched with stone, and the groyns of the arches centre all in the middle, where they are supported by one pillar: towards the south wall, and a good way to the east and west, there are seats round it. At the north-east end there is a press where they keep their records, and by that there is a pulpit.

In the uppermost division of the south aisle, near the chapel abovementioned, is a nich in the outward wall, where there seems to have been a monument, but of whom is not known. At the north-east corner is a nich in the wall, in which is a fair statue of a lady, in a recumbent posture, covered with a large veil; it is of alabaster; in the wall two men hold two escutcheons, which are so defaced that the arms cannot be discerned. There is no inscription. Her name is said to have been Christian Audley. But who she was otherwise, or when she lived, is not remembered. I can only guess, that she was probably the wife of John, lord Audley, a person of great possessions in these parts, and an active man in suppressing the insurrection of Owen Glendour, in the time of Henry the IVth. in the 10th year of whose reign he departed this life. Under the east window of the same aisle is a grave-stone with this inscription:

J E S U S.

Here lyeth the body of William Evans, *L. L. B. Treasurer of this Cathedral Church, Chancellor of this Diocese for* 40 *Years,*

under these three Bishops, Anthony [*Kitchin,* alias *Dunston,*] Hugh [*Jones,*] *and* William [*Blethin*] *Prebendary of* Exon, *and Justice of the Peace and* Quorum *of* Monmouth *and* Glamorgan, *deceased 5th of* January, Anno Dom. 1589.

Underneath are his arms, quarterly; 1st. *Three Lions Rampant.* 2. *Two Cheverons in a plain Field.* 3. *A Lion Rampant within a bordure gobonated.* 4th. as the first. Under the arms is written, *Fortitudo mea Dominus.*

Near this, to the south side, is another grave-stone, thus inscribed:

J E S U S.

Here lyeth the Body of John Evans, *of* Llangattock Vybonavel, *Brother to the said* William Evans, *deceased the 3d Day of* December, Anno 1588.

I go back now to the north aisle, which I had carried up before as high as the choir. There the first thing that occurs worth observation is a monument in a nich in the wall, over against bishop Marshall's monument, of a bishop in his pontifical robes, and over him, in the form of an escutcheon, the instruments of the Crucifixion, the cross, nails, ladder, ropes, and scourges, and over those an emblem of the Resurrection. There is no inscription, nor other mark, by which to find out the person for whom this monument was made. Above that, in another nich, is a skeleton engraved in free-stone, lying in a shroud open before, and gathered above the head; it seems

to be 300 years old, if not more; and, considering the time, it is not ill cut: this skeleton is over against the 11th pillar of the choir, which joins to the altar.

Towards the east end of this aforesaid north aisle, there is a screen which divides the east end from the rest. It was thus divided for a burial-place of the family of the Matthew's. It is 11 feet long, and 15 feet broad.

At the upper end, within this division, to the north east, lies a knight in armour, upon an altar monument, in alabaster, well wrought: at his head is a man in armour bearing his shield: on the side are six images, five of men, and one of a woman, all bearing escutcheons. This is said to be the monument of David Matthew the great, who was standard bearer to Edward IV. and was murdered at Neath (a maritime town in this county, which is the old Nidum in the itinerary of Antoninus) by some of the Turberviles, with whom he was at variance.

On the north side next to St. Mary's chapel, between that and the north aisle, is a noble altar monument about nine feet in length, on which are two images finely wrought in alabaster: the man is in armour, with a collar of SS's about his neck, and a coat of mail under his corslet; by him lies a woman with laced head clothes, and the lace of the lappets gilt. Round the edge of the altar is this inscription:

Orate pro animabus Christophori Matthew Armigeri, & Elisabeth Uxoris sue, que quidem Elisabeth, obiit penultimo Die Januarij A. D.

M. D. vicesº sexto it predict' Christophorus Obiit . . . . . Anno Domini M.CCCCCº. quorum Animabus propitietur Deus, Amen.

On the south side of the monument are two Angels in the middle, supporting the escutcheons in which are the coats of Matthew and Morgan. At each end are two old priests, and between them and the angels, towards the choir, are three young men in armour, and towards the east end of St. Mary's chapel, two young men in armour, and one young woman: on the north side are two angels in the middle, as on the south, supporting the same escutcheon, and two priests with beads at the end, and three women on each side between the priests and the angels.

Out of the north aisle there is a door into St. Mary's chapel, which is at the east end of the choir, and divided from it by a long narrow room, which runs the whole breadth of the choir, parallel to, and between that and St. Mary's chapel: this room is five feet and three inches in breadth. It was formerly used for a vestry, and has two doors at the north and south-west end, behind the high altar, to go into the choir: it is now only a dark dusty place of little or no use. The chapel itself, now called the Welsh chapel, because divine service is celebrated in it every Sunday in the Welsh language, is from the west end to the communion rails, in length 48 feet, and from thence to the altar, nine feet and a half; its breadth is 24 feet six inches, and the heighth about 36 feet: it is built without any pilasters to support it. In the inside, towards the west end, there are two screens

of wood, 10 feet six inches long apiece, which divide this chapel from the side-aisles, and join the wall of the chapel with the vestry : in each of these screens there is a door which leads into the aisles. On the north side, near the rails, there is a pulpit and a reading desk. Behind the altar, and on the north and south sides, are seats for the people. In the area of the chapel is a grave stone that is said to belong to *Johannes Monumethensis*, (who was bishop of Llandaff in 1296) and nearer to the altar another for bishop Pascall, who was bishop in 1343. On the north side of the altar lies William de Bruce, covered with a black coarse marble grave stone, engraved with a bold relief, roughly drawn after the manner of the time. He is in his plain episcopal robes, with a mitre and crosier; and over his head is cut in embossed work, WILLELMUS DE BRUCE EPS. LAD. He died in the year 1287. Under the altar are some painted bricks, adorned with several sorts of grotesque figures; some of the bricks seem to have had letters inscribed upon them; but after I had caused them to be carefully cleaned, I could discern nothing but parallel lines in this manner,

The whole altar seems to have been paved with such sort of bricks which are now decayed and gone.

Over the altar in this chapel, towards the north and south, are two large double niches, in which are the ten commandments in Welsh : on each side are two rows of niches, with three other niches at each corner. The length of St. Mary's chapel, on the outside east and west, from the end of the south aisle, is 12 yards, which added to the 75 yards two feet six inches of the

south aisle afore-mentioned, (page 298) including the length of the old tower, makes the whole length of the church, from end to end, east and west, to be 87 yards two feet six inches *i. e.* 263 feet six inches.

The whole building is covered with lead, which is pretty entire, only by reason of the sinking of the timbers of the roof, it appears uneven and falling in in several places. There is no painted glass, nor any escutcheons in the windows that I observed. This church cannot, by any means, be said to have been well kept: the walls, however, seem to be pretty strong every where, except in the old tower; and the stone frames of the windows tolerably entire; so that it might still be made, without a very great expence, considering the largeness of the structure, a very decent cathedral. But the revenue of the church is so small, that, without foreign assistance, much cannot be done under a very long compass of time. The service of the choir has been put down many years, and the revenues thence arising appropriated to the reparation of the edifice. The persons concerned, (as it is said) have laid out some hundreds of pounds to preserve the roof from falling in and destroying the whole church, and for other necessaries.

The chapter consists of 14 members, viz. a bishop, who answers to the dean in other cathedrals, and has a stall in the choir, and place in chapter in like manner. An archdeacon, who, in the absence of the bishop, presides, and is, *de jure*, sub-dean; and 12 prebendaries. There are also two spiritual vicar-chorals, of whom one has a pension of 20*l.* a year, and the other has the small tythes of Landaff and Whitchurch.

The bishop's castle stands (or rather stood, before it was demolished) south-east of the church: it was heretofore a very stately building, if we may judge by the gate-house, which is still remaining. It was destroyed by Owen Vaughan, commonly called Glendower, (or Glyndwrdwy) who made great devastation in this country, as well as in North Wales, when he rose in arms against Henry IV. There is a very high thick stone wall still standing, which probably enclosed the castle, and the out-houses that belonged to it. The site of the castle is now turned into a garden, which belongs to Thomas Matthew, Esq. of the court of Landaff, (a house so called just adjoining) who is tenant to a descendant of the house of Aradir, now living in Ireland; which family has been in possession of that which was once the episcopal house, and the grounds thereunto adjoining, for some ages.

To the north-east of the castle is the prebendary of Warthacwm's house, which is in sorry repair. Next to that is the treasurer's house, now ruined. Exactly to the east of the church, but without the church-yard, was formerly a small college for the vicars-choral, and the other officers of the church, of which only shattered ruins are now remaining. Towards the north-east end of the church-yard (which is not large) is the prebendal house of William Jones; of which there are only some walls now standing: next to that is the prebendal house of St. Andrew, where are large ruins, besides a small house. To the west of that is the house of the prebendary of St. Crosse's, which is a pretty good one. North-west of the church, near the corner of the church-yard, is a house which is of late re-built, and fitted up for the reception of the chapter, when they come to the audit. In an upper room in this house, there is a small library, founded

by bishop Davis since the restoration. He gave to it many of the fathers, from the second to the eighth century, a very fair St. Chrysostom, of the Eton edition, with Bellarmin's controversies, and several of the classicks. There had been a library, before the civil wars, in the church; but it was dispersed by the rebels, and part of it burned, with a great heap of Common-Prayer Books, at Cardiff, whither the cavaliers of the country, and the wives of several sequestered clergymen, were invited to the castle, in a cold winter's day, to warm themselves by the fire, which was then made of the books that were there burnt.

Towards the north-west of the church, opposite to Jasper's tower, in a field called Llan-y-wrâch, at about forty-six yards distance, there is a ruined piece of building, under the brow of a hill, 48 yards in length, and 20 yards broad. It appears to have been built in the form of a castle, and is said to have belonged anciently to the archdeacon of Landaff. His dwelling was certainly once very magnificent, since (we are told that) the archdeacon of that church, in Henry II's time, entertained that prince at dinner at his own house, from whence he went to Cardiff castle, where he supped and lay that night, in his return to London from his wars in Ireland. The archidiaconal castle was demolished by Owen Glyndwrdwy, at the same time when he burnt the bishop's castle.

This, Sir, is the best account I could procure of the cathedral church of Landaff; in which, if there were not prayers read every day, and the ecclesiastical courts and offices thereunto belonging, constantly held in it, and kept in the village just by, there would be very small signs of its being the mother-church of so wealthy

and populous a diocese. Its neighbourhood to Cardiff, which is a mile off to the east, makes its decayed condition the more remarkable. The inhabitants of that very elegant town, have, within these few years, beautified their church, and furnished it with an organ, at their no small expence. The steeple of that once conventual church, which is much the finest in South Wales, casts a shade upon Jasper's tower in the church of Landaff, whilst the decorations at the top of the one, which are very fresh and curious, reproach the broken condition of the battlements of the other. It must be owned, that the revenue of this church is very small; but in this age, in which building and repairing of churches is more in fashion than it has been at any time since the reformation, so near and so laudable an example will, I hope, incite those who are best able, to raise the mother-church above its next adjoining daughter. And I cannot but believe, if those whose immediate concern the world will judge it to be, would set themselves about it with vigour and application, but the gentlemen of these two flourishing counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth, which constitute the diocese of Landaff, would, in like manner as their ancestors did on the erecting the primary structure, willingly contribute to make its ancient cathedral once more appear with a lustre equal, at least, to that which it ever had.

I am with due respect,

Honoured Sir,

Your most faithful and

most obedient servant,

W. WOTTON.

BISHOPS OF LANDAFF.

1. St. Dubritius, *Anno* 490.
2. St. Teleiau, 512.
3. Odoceus, 540.
4. Ubylwinus.
5. Aidan.
6. Elgistill.
7. Lunapeius.
8. Comegern.
9. Argwistill.
10. Gurwan.
11. Gwodloiou.
12. Edilbiu, or Edilbinus.
13. Greciolus.
14. Berthigwin.
15. Trychan, or Trithanus.
16. Elvogus, died anno 1763.
17. Catwarel, or Catguaret.
18. Cerenhir.
19. Nobis.
20. Gulfridus.
21. Nudd, or Nuth.
22. Cimelian, or Cymelliauth, 872.
23. Libian, or Lybiauth, 927.
24. Marchluith, 929.
25. Pater, 943.
26. Gugan, or Gogwan, 972.
27. Bledri, or Blethery, 983.
28. Joseph, 1022.
29. Herewald, 1046.
30. Urban, 1108.
31. Hutredus, or Utrryd, 1139.
32. Geffrey, 1149.
33. Nicholas ap Gwrgant, 1149.
34. William de Salso Marisco, 1185.
35. Henry, prior of Abergavenny, 1191.
36. William de Goldclive, 1219.
37. Elias de Radnor, 1230.
38. William de Christchurch, 1240.
39. William de Burgh, 1244.
40. John de la Ware, 1253.
41. William de Radnor, 1256.
42. William de Breuse, 1256.
43. Philip de Staunton, 1287.
44. John de Monmouth, 1296.
45. Alexander de Monmouth, 1323.
46. John de Eclescliff, 1323.
47. John Coventry, 1346.

48. John Pascall, D.D. 1346.
49. Roger Cradock, 1361.
50. Thomas Rushooke, 1383.
51. William de Bottesham, 1386.
52. Edward Brumfield, 1389.
53. Tydeman de Wynchecombe, 1393.
54. Andrew Barret, 1395.
55. John Burghill, 1396.
56. Thomas Peverell, 1398.
57. John de la Zouche, 1407.
58. John Fulford, 1423.
59. John Wells, 1425.
60. Nicholas Assheby, 1440.
61. John Hunden, 1458.
62. John Smith, 1476.
63. John Marshal, 1478.
64. John Ingleby, 1496.
65. Miles Salley, 1499.
66. George de Attica, or Athegua, 1516.
67. Robert Holgate, 1537.
68. Anthony Kitchin, alias Dunstan, 1545.
69. Hugh Jones, 1567.
70. William Blethin, 1575.
71. Gervaise Babington, 1591.
72. William Morgan, 1595.
73. Francis Godwin, 1601.
74. George Charlton, 1617.
75. Theophilus Field, 1619.
76. William Murray, 1627.
77. Morgan Owen, 1639.
78. Hugh Lloyd, 1660.
79. Francis Davis, 1667.
80. William Lloyd, 1675.
81. William Beaw, 1679.
82. John Tyler, 1706.
83. Rd. Clavering, D. D. 1724.
84. John Harris, D. D. 1729.
85. Matthais Mawson, D. D. 1738.
86. John Gilbert, LL. D. 1740.
87. Edw. Cresset, A. M. 1748.
88. Rd. Newcome, D. D. 1755.
89. John Ewer, D. D. 1761.
90. Hon. Shute Barrington, D. D. 1769.
91. Rd. Watson, D. D. 1782.

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ERRATA.

PAGE 99 *line* 10 *for* Nant-Kentham *read* Nant-Hentham.
152 — 9 — obility, — ability.
252 — 3 — Landego, — Landogo.

FINIS.